

# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

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THE conference of 1896 at Cleveland gives good promise, from the preliminary program, of a gathering at once enjoyable and profitable. Cleveland is in so central a position, except as regards the South, that there should be a large attendance, including, we hope, fair representation of Canadian librarians. Special emphasis will be given to a Trustees' meeting, and it will be good missionary work for librarians to induce as many trustees as possible to be present. Arrangements for the Post-conference trip promise a delightful journey at very low cost. The arrangements for the European trip of '97 do not, as yet, show visible progress, but it is to be hoped, and expected, that the plans will be announced in full at Cleveland and that they will be such as to induce everybody who can to take part in that pilgrimage.

THE merry game of politics in state and city libraries still goes on—the latest sufferer being the state of Maryland. We are informed that the recent incumbent of the state librarianship at Annapolis was kept so busy managing his hotel that he could not give adequate attention to the library, and after threatening to hold the fort against the attacks of the governor, he has at last given up the fight and made way for his successor. The new appointee, a lady, also, it is understood, owes her appointment to politics, but having been appointed she is entitled to a fair trial. It does not follow that all political appointments are in themselves bad. The new appointee at the Tacoma Public Library, Mr. Herbert Bashford, desires that this exception should be noted in his behalf. He has written the JOURNAL in courteous and friendly protest, calling attention to the fact that he had been librarian of the Mercantile Library, which was the progenitor of the present Tacoma Public Library. The fact that proper men may sometimes be appointed as the result of political methods does not excuse the improper methods themselves, and the time should come when a librarian who does good work for a state or city will be as secure in his tenure of office as the librarian or other executive of a private association or business corporation, which seeks by every means to get and keep the best men.

THE opening of the new building of the Pratt Institute Free Library, in Brooklyn, calls fresh attention to one of the most noble examples of private munificence which our generation has seen. The \$190,000 spent on the new building is but a small part of the fortune that has been devoted to the great educational work combined in the several departments of the Pratt Institute, which is entitled to the credit not only of doing good work in its own neighborhood but of furnishing the exemplar and setting the pace for other institutions, such as the Drexel Institute in Philadelphia and the Armour Institute in Chicago. The benefactions of Charles Pratt have been admirably administered by his sons, and the Institute is established on the firm basis of an endowment in buildings and land affording good rental and promising increasing return from generation to generation. The Pratt Institute, indeed, has been a shining example of wise beneficence and far-reaching foresight, and these qualities are shown in the latest provisions for its library.

THE International Conference to be held in London in July next will mark the beginning of a memorable era in the cataloging of scientific literature. The provisional scheme shows a large view of the subject and sympathy with the most modern methods. It will be most difficult to establish the line of demarcation, in these days, between pure and applied science, as, for instance, in the department of electricity, and the conference could easily waste all its sessions in discussing such points as these. Doubtless such questions will be referred to special committees, which will possibly report at an adjourned conference a year or so hence, as is the usual practice of the British Association. It is to be hoped that the scope of the catalog, while it cannot cover all the articles in many practical technical periodicals now published, will be extended sufficiently into applied science to give a more complete view of the scientific field than would otherwise be possible. The advance during the past twelvemonth in our knowledge of the Roentgen rays has been almost entirely within the domain of applied science, though no line of investigation is likely to be more prolific in its results on pure science.

We give elsewhere in full the interesting scheme of Mr. Brett for a monthly index of periodical literature, which, beginning with January in each year, would be cumulative each month, so that each monthly number would contain all the entries of the previous month and the twelfth or December number would contain the entries for the full year. This would certainly be an ideal index for library purposes, and if the \$2000 guarantee fund can be raised either from 200 subscriptions at \$10 per year or 400 at \$5 per year, Mr. Brett undertakes to issue such a publication and not to ask payment for the subscription until after the sixth number is an accomplished fact. If the Cleveland Public Library is willing to perform such a service, those libraries which can afford to take such a periodical will have reason to be grateful to it. If it is as full in its list of periodicals as the "Annual literary index," it will have a considerable advantage over that publication, in combining the usefulness of a monthly and of an annual index, although it will not include the other features of that annual.

BUT the cost has to be counted. Such a publication cannot be issued except at considerable annual cost for capable bibliographical work—or else a librarian or his assistant must take that work out of their own time. The bills for manufacture are only one part of the real cost of such a publication as this. The success of this issue would also make impracticable the continuance of the "Annual literary index" itself, which in turn would make less possible the five-yearly continuation of "Poole's Index." The other features, in addition to the index to periodical literature, would of course lapse with the main feature, and this, in turn, would make less possible the issue of the five-yearly supplement to the Fletcher "Index to general literature." The "Annual literary index" has never, in its several years of publication, enjoyed so high a return as \$2000—although it has not attempted to enter the advertising field, and the number of subscribers is limited practically to about 500. This publication does not meet the demand for a monthly index, but this demand was met some years ago when the "Co-operative index to periodicals" was published monthly. The difficulties in the way of prompt publication and the lack of really adequate support led to a change of plan to a quarterly. It was generally considered that one alphabet was better than four, and thus the original annual came to pass.

IT may be well, in this connection, to point out the important fact that co-operation and competition cannot exist together in fields which are closely limited. The American Library Association was started for purposes of co-operation, so as to prevent waste and duplication, and to make possible enterprises which could not be individually carried out or would not be commercially profitable. In that spirit various enterprises have been started, some of which have proved that there was no adequate demand and *raison d'être* for them, others of which have shown their right to exist, but few of which, with the exception of the Library Bureau, have shown adequate commercial profit. It is well worth while to consider, throughout the library field, whether there should be loyal support from the several libraries for co-operative or practically co-operative enterprises, or whether each library should endeavor to accomplish its purposes in its own way, at the expense of other co-operative work.

#### Communications.

##### LIBRARIES AND BICYCLES—A QUERY.

I WOULD like to inquire whether the bicycle has caused any decrease of reading in the libraries throughout the country? I think it has made a slight difference in our business recently. Nearly every one rides a wheel in these days, and it would seem that this takes some of the time formerly devoted to literature. While cycling is good exercise, and healthful if not overdone, it seems sad that mental culture should languish. Can there not be a book-holder adjusted to the handles of the "bike," so that those who ride can read? Thus could bodily exercise and fresh air be had without neglecting the mind! Perhaps the Library Bureau may be able to suggest some appliance for the improvement of the bicycle in the direction indicated?

W. A. BARDWELL.

BROOKLYN LIBRARY,  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. }

##### A CORRECTION—THE ST. LOUIS P. L. INCOME.

THE statement in the article "Libraries and the library problem in Greater New York" (L. J., March, 1896) that the income of the St. Louis Public Library was "over \$100,000" yearly, while true in fact, may lead to a false impression, and should, therefore, be corrected. The income of the library, as stated in its 1895 report, was \$108,000, but of this \$46,000 was balance from the previous year. The income from city tax was \$59,320, to which was added \$2615 from fines, etc. Mr. Crunden says: "If we had an income of over \$100,000 a year we could do a great deal more work than we are now able to do."

## BAD FEATURES OF GOOD BOOKS.\*

BY H. CARRINGTON BOLTON.

THE expression "bad features" in the title of this paper does not refer to erroneous statements, blunders in dates, names or facts, anachronisms, misquotations, blemishes in style, or the innumerable objectionable peculiarities of authors, some or several of which may be found in books otherwise deserving the qualification "good," but the "bad features" are those imperfections and absurdities in the "make-up" of books, due generally to the inexperience of authors and the carelessness of publishers.

These comprise weak points in title-pages, tables of contents, indexes, pagination, running head-lines, etc., of books, as well as eccentricities in the make-up of periodicals, some of which exhibit a stupidity well-nigh incredible. These bad features do not in all cases annoy the general reader, but they are prolific sources of vexation of spirit to the cataloger and the librarian, as well as of errors on the part of scholars who attempt to make accurate references to them.

*Defects in title-pages:*

Aside from the question of ill-chosen titles which convey false notions as to the nature of the books, some authors attempt to print on the title-page a full analysis of the contents. These extraordinarily long title-pages were more common a hundred years ago than at present, the reaction against them now leading to extreme brevity.

William Salmon's "Polygraphice," published at London in 1685, contains 223 words on the title-page. Arthur Conrad Erstingius's "Nucleus totius medicinae quinque partitus," printed in 1741 at Helmstadt, contains 204 words on its crowded title-page, and Johann Kunckel, von Löwenstern, the German chemist, apparently undertook to print as large a portion of his "Ars vitraria experimentalis" on the title-page as typography allowed, for it contains no less than 300 words; the date is 1743.

The publication of an old book with an entirely new title is a piece of dishonesty that cannot be too severely condemned, and one of which no respectable publisher should be guilty. The editors of the LIBRARY JOURNAL keep a sharp lookout for these attempts to

deceive bookbuyers, and frequently print lists of "changed titles," as they are technically known. This practice is not exclusively restricted to modern times; I have before me as I write two copies of an identical book, one bearing the title "Die Edelgeborne Jungfer Alchymia," published at Tübingen in 1730, and the other having the title "Ehren-Rettung der Alchymie," published at Herrenstadt in the same year. These titles are here greatly abbreviated, and the sub-titles differ widely; the pages following the title-pages are absolutely identical. The work was published anonymously and is very scarce.

One feature of book-making, chiefly confined to Germany, is very vexatious to catalogers, viz.: the insertion of two distinct title-pages, facing each other at the front of the volume. In some cases where the first title-page gives the title of the series to which the book belongs and the second the proper title of the volume in hand there is a reasonable excuse, but this is by no means the only way in which the objectionable feature occurs. The custom is too common with Germans to require illustration; mention may be made, however, of the chemical writings of Johann Wolfgang Döberiner, published early in the century, whose double titles are characteristic.

This plan is really indefensible, since the information can easily be merged on a single page and made quite clear by using distinctive types.

The omission of dates on title-pages of modern books is unhappily too often done with intent to deceive buyers as to the date of production; in the case of books dealing with scientific topics the practice cannot be too strongly condemned. Muspratt's "Chemistry," 2 vols., 4to, published in Edinburgh, London, and New York, is an illustration; the first edition was issued between 1853 and 1861, and dateless title-pages still accompany later editions, to entrap the unwary student.

Happily this scheme for working off on the unsuspecting public books behind the times fails with copyright works, though not a few bookbuyers neglect to turn over the title-page in order to ascertain the true date.

Hardly less reprehensible is the addition of a new title-page bearing the current date to an old publication, a feature much too common in

\* Read before the Washington (D.C.) Library Association, March 25, 1896; to be followed by a second paper, entitled, "Bad features of periodicals."

the United States. This suggests a paragraph on the real meaning of the vague term "edition," but the unsatisfactory way in which this word is used has been often discussed.

Whether or no the entire absence of a title-page can be regarded as a defect is questionable, but it certainly is a bad feature in a book. This peculiarity is characteristic of many meteorological journals, weather reports, and climatic observations, which for some incomprehensible reason are often the worst edited works encountered in a library.

*Prefaces:*

Prefaces furnish the only medium of communication between the author and the reader on minor details concerning the volume and are exceedingly useful. In publishing a second (or later) edition of a work, editors sometimes omit the date of the first preface, which may, however, be an important item for the scholar.

*Table of contents:*

The omission of a table of contents is a very bad feature in some good books. Even the existence of an index by no means makes a table of contents superfluous, for they fulfil different purposes. The preparation of a table of contents is generally a very simple matter, and may be secured by arranging in order the chapter-headings, or other sub-titles of the volume.

The French publishers have pretty generally adopted the plan of placing the table at the end of the book, in an endeavor to make it serve the additional purpose of an index, a scheme which really deceives no thoughtful reader.

*Indexes:*

So much has been written in bitter condemnation of the omission of indexes that nothing which I can add will contribute to this discussion. Every one is acquainted with Mr. H. B. Wheatley's admirable and entertaining little book, "What is an index?" and to its pages you are here referred.

It occurs to me, however, that the author is often not so much to blame for the neglect to add an index as is the publisher, for a hint from the latter, or better, an offer of assistance, would often stimulate the author to provide this indispensable feature.

Our English cousins seem particularly careless in this important matter, many of their truly splendid works being indexless.

What is to be said of a book that lacks both table of contents and indexes? Such is William

Fluhrer's "Die Diastase . . .," published in Munich in 1870, an 8vo of 290 pages.

If the copyright could be refused to books without indexes, a decided advance might be made, though the quality of the indexes thus obtained might be low.

*Running head-lines:*

The running head-lines at the tops of pages are often badly chosen, their selection being left by the author to the printers, who adopt that heading which gives them the least trouble. A very common way is to repeat the title (shortened if necessary) on both left-hand and right-hand pages, thus affording no information to the reader. Such is the case with Mrs. Oliphant's "Makers of Venice," published by Burt in New York, date not given.

When properly studied, the running head-lines form a good index to the individual pages.

Sometimes the running head-lines are omitted altogether, and the page-numbers printed in their places—a very unsatisfactory substitute. Such is the arrangement in the dignified "Compte-rendu" of the French Academy of Sciences, and in Herder's "Catalogus systematicus" of the Royal Botanical Garden, St. Petersburg.

So valuable a work of reference as Walsh's "Handbook of literary curiosities" (Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia) has no running head-lines and no key-words, greatly hampering its convenient use.

*Signatures:*

Every librarian who takes pains to collate books newly received knows that in a small number of them signatures are imperfectly arranged or even lacking entirely, thereby ruining the volume for the purpose for which it was made. In the case of new books, they can be returned to the publisher, but with old ones there is no such convenient remedy. After owning for some time a copy of Priestley's "Experiments and observations on different kinds of air" (London, 1774-79, 3 vols., 8°), I made the unwelcome discovery that Vol. I. was made up of a mixture of signatures of Vol. I. and Vol. II., while Vol. II. itself was perfect. Most opportunely I soon afterwards discovered in the library of the institution with which I was connected a duplicate copy of the identical volume needed to complete my set, and which the librarian kindly exchanged for some desirable works. This piece of good fortune is a coincidence too extraordinary to be relied on.

*Chapters and sections:*

The appearance of solidly printed pages, with rarely a paragraph break, and without divisions into chapters or sections, is appalling, and yet some good books suffer from this easily remedied bad feature.

*Volumes and parts:*

Volumes and parts of volumes are sometimes singularly confounded; this is seen in Roscoe and Schorlemmer's superb "Treatise of chemistry" (London and New York, 1878-94). This work is ostensibly in three volumes, but Vol. I. is subdivided into two "Parts," and Vol. III. into six "Parts"; since these "Parts" form full-sized, independent volumes, there are actually nine volumes, and much confusion results.

To number volumes in the order in which they are issued is too obvious a policy to require argument, yet failure to observe this has led to singular results. A French chemist, Longchamp, about 1834, planned a collection entitled "Bibliothèque du chimiste," in three series of five volumes each, and of these he published Vol. VII. as a starter; but the enterprise was unsuccessful, and librarians will hunt in vain for the preceding six volumes!

French publishers use the words "tome" and "volume" in such loose ways that it is impossible to determine which is the larger and which the smaller division. On referring to

Littré, the standard lexicographer, it appears that there is no definite discrimination observed in the French language.

*Notes:*

Some editors load their books with "oppressively erudite notes," out of all proportion to the text. Gosse's edition of "Gray's Poems (selected)" has 42 p. of notes to 60 p. of poetry. J. F. Gmelin's "Geschichte der Chemie" (3 vols., Leipzig, 1776-77) has an undue proportion of foot-notes, often one line of text and the rest of the page wholly notes in small type. Such a make-up is bewildering to readers. At the close of Gmelin's third volume there are 16 p. of Errata, another bad feature.

*Illustrations:*

Illustrations are very often arranged in a volume with little or no reference to the text they should accompany; in magazines this is unavoidable for purely mechanical reasons.

Sometimes illustrations are introduced which are not in any way referred to in the text, yet are otherwise sufficiently appropriate.

In recent editions of Mrs. Jameson's works the plates do not bear legends sufficiently explicit, necessitating constant reference to the list of illustrations. Neglect to print on plates references to pages treating of the subjects represented is another cause of annoyance to lovers of fine books.

## THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE.\*

BY CAROLINE M. HEWINS, *Librarian Hartford (Ct.) Public Library.*

IT was at one of the early meetings of the Connecticut Library Association, held in Hartford, in May, 1891, that the president, Mr. Van Name, spoke of the recently issued report of the Massachusetts Library Commission and urged the importance of new library legislation in Connecticut and the establishment of a similar commission.

Connecticut moves slowly, and the legislature meets biennially instead of annually. It was not until June, 1893, that a library act was passed permitting unlimited appropriations for the establishment and yearly maintenance of public libraries. The limit to the number of directors was also removed, but the total number must be divisible by three, one-third being elected annually, to serve three years. The State Board of Education was directed to an-

nually appoint five persons, to be called the Connecticut Public Library Committee, serving without compensation, but entitled to \$500 annually for clerical assistance and necessary expenses. It was made the duty of the committee to give advice and assistance, when requested by librarians or directors of public libraries and teachers of public schools, in regard to the selection and purchase of books, the cataloging of books, and any other matters pertaining to the maintenance or administration of the library. When a new free public library is established and duly provided for, the committee may expend for books, to be selected by them, a sum not exceeding the amount expended by the town, and not to exceed \$200. By an act of 1895 the committee was authorized to expend in the purchase of books for any free public library a sum not exceeding the amount annually appropriated and expended by the town, or, in

\* A paper read before the Massachusetts Library Club, January 1, 1896, at Boston.

case of the smallest towns, the amount annually appropriated and expended from any source for the increase of said library, and not to exceed \$100. At the same time it was required that every free public library receiving a state appropriation should annually make a report to the committee.

In September, 1893, the committee was appointed. Mr. Hine, the chairman, is the secretary of the State Board of Education, and is constantly travelling all over the state and often speaks at teachers' meetings and sometimes at town meetings on the advantages of public libraries. It is through his personal efforts that our 23 towns have established them. Notice that almost all of them have voted a sum equal to what the state will give, and since the new act of 1895 they are meeting the state's annual grant as far as they are able.

The committee has issued five circulars, the latest giving copies of the law, form for votes, choice of directors, certificates, etc. One of them tells what a free library does for a country town, and was reprinted in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* within a few months. Members of the committee have expressed in these circulars their willingness to meet the officers of town libraries and to go to country towns if necessary. One or the other of them is often present at the opening of a new library.

Since the Connecticut Public Library Committee held its first meeting in September, 1893, 23 towns have established public libraries.\* These towns are in all parts of the state, and represent entirely different social conditions. Most of them already had subscription libraries, varying from a few hundred to 5000 volumes. The first to report was Seymour, one of the manufacturing towns of recent growth in New Haven county, which asked for books better fitted for students than average readers—Fiske's "Cosmic philosophy," for example. It was followed by Wethersfield, Suffield, and Durham, fine old towns, with broad, elm-shaded streets, and mansion-houses once the homes of men famous in church and state. Durham had established in 1733 a library belonging to 25 "coparceners," and this library existed till 1787, when a new one was formed, which after some 50 years went into private hands. Wethersfield and Suffield had each about 2000 well-selected volumes. Wethersfield owned but few books for children, and on this account asked for a larger pro-

portion than usual of books of this class. Suffield requested a good dictionary, encyclopaedia, and atlas. In general the committee prefers spending the gift of the state for a larger number of cheaper volumes, but has approved reference-books for Suffield and another town to be mentioned later.

Next came Putnam, a large manufacturing town near the eastern border; Plainville, a town near Hartford, partly agricultural and partly suburban; and Union, which has the smallest population in the state, and lies near the northeast corner. Putnam and Plainville had subscription libraries which were turned over to the towns. Plainville asked for several copies each of books for use in the higher grades of the public schools, such as Rolfe's edition of some of Shakespeare's plays, "Sir Roger de Coverley," "Gulliver's travels," Scott's poems, and Macaulay's "Lays of ancient Rome." Union requested for the same purpose duplicates of books for younger children—Jane Andrews's "Seven little sisters," "Ten boys" and "Stories Mother Nature told," Scott's "Tales of a grandfather" and Hawthorne's "Wonder-book."

None of the towns up to this time had library buildings, but last winter Milford, a town on the Sound shore, near New Haven, which had lately celebrated its 250th anniversary by dedicating a fine memorial bridge, knocked at our doors, saying, "The town has accepted the beautiful Taylor Memorial Library, a \$25,000 stone building, 5000 volumes, including memorial alcoves given by former residents, and a subscription library. We are so well equipped in other classes that we desire from the state books on sociology, philology, natural science, useful arts, and fine arts." Newington, a town close to Hartford, was unwilling to be behind its neighbor, Wethersfield, and opened a library in the town hall with the gift of the state and a few other volumes.

East Haddam, near the mouth of the Connecticut, had had for seven years a public library of 5000 volumes, established by private subscription and the gift of a former library, and a reading-room with nearly 50 periodicals. The town voted last year to establish and maintain the library, and in consideration of all that had been done for it, the committee granted a request for Appleton's "Cyclopaedia of biography" and Knight's "Mechanical dictionary," but substituted the less expensive International for the Century dictionary.

Scotland, in eastern Connecticut, the town

\* Rockville, Enfield, Ansonia, and East Hartford have also established public libraries since this was written.

where Jonathan Huntington wrote the old round "Scotland's burning," has lately appropriated \$200 this year and \$25 for all succeeding years.

Portland, celebrated for its sandstone quarries, and lying on the Connecticut opposite Middletown, has made its library free, and has a building, the Buck Library, costing \$5000 or \$6000, nearly ready to be occupied. New Canaan, just on the border of New York, a town largely given over to summer residents, has also made a subscription library free. Chester, on the Connecticut opposite East Haddam, and Somers, a farming town in Tolland county, half-way between Suffield and Union, have voted for free libraries; Plymouth has opened a library in Terryville, a manufacturing village.

North Canaan, in the northwest corner of the state, has a good building for the Douglas Library, and has lately made it free. It is worthy of notice that in six adjoining towns in this part of the state — Winsted, Norfolk, Canaan, North Canaan, Sharon, and Salisbury — there are memorial libraries, the Beardsley Library in Winsted occupying a part of a building, the other buildings especially designed for them and costing from \$5000 to \$25,000. Those in Norfolk and Salisbury are free, the others almost so.

Across the Connecticut from Wethersfield lies the old town of Glastonbury, once remote from Hartford, but since the electric car line was built, one of its suburbs. The public library spirit crossed the river, and the town has voted to throw open a subscription library to the public and maintain it.

Andover, a farming town in the hills, 20 miles east of Hartford, has also felt the library influence. Hampton, another hill farming town, which joins Scotland, has followed its example.

Prospect, a small town in the hills, where the energetic and public-spirited wife of a minister has had for several years a small free lending library of the best books that she could find in paper covers; and Westbrook, a Sound summer resort, have also voted for free libraries. Middlefield, a town next Durham, received just after the act of 1893 was passed a library building, the gift of Judge Coe, of Meriden, and appropriates \$100 every year for the maintenance and increase of the library. It can therefore claim that amount from the state.

The towns are encouraged to send book-lists subject to the approval of the committee, and we have been much pleased with the careful and intelligent choice that has been made. Of course, we have to draw the line sometimes at the Elsie books or "Chimmie Fadden" or Mrs. Southworth or Mrs. Hentz, or obsolete books of science like Pepper's "Play-book," or the "Library of wonders," but in general we believe that the towns know their own needs, and so many of them have already libraries of several hundred or even thousand volumes that we allow a larger proportion of the books of the last year or two than in an entirely new library. We have in preparation a list of standard books recommended to all libraries. We have sent out a list of books of the current year as an aid in selection. This list was made after a careful comparison with the New York one printed last year, but includes few of the books mentioned in that, for the reason that it is a list of 1895 and not of 1894. It has also books which we have found popular in the best sense in the Hartford Public Library, the best new books of the last three months, and others of especial interest to Connecticut readers, like Gibson's "Our edible toadstools and mushrooms," Potts's "From a New England hill-side," Child's "Old New England town," and Hotchkiss's "In defiance of the king," a story of privateering in Long Island Sound in the Revolution and the Fort Griswold massacre. It was a little amusing, after the care and pains bestowed on the list, to receive the following criticism from one of the towns: "Is it necessary to select from the meagre catalog sent? It would be our desire to have books of more uniform excellence, wider popularity, and classic nature than are suggested in your catalog." We replied that the list was printed as a help in selecting books of 1895, but that there was no cast-iron rule compelling a library to choose from that or any other list.

On account of the connection of the committee with the board of education, we give especial attention to interesting books for young readers illustrating American history, and we have put into the town libraries copies of Mrs. Dana's "How to know the wild flowers," Grant's "Our common birds," and Mrs. Ballard's "Moths and butterflies," in order to encourage children to use their eyes out of doors and begin a training of their observing powers that will be a pleasure and resource to them all their lives.

THE PRATT INSTITUTE FREE LIBRARY, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

THE new building of the Pratt Institute Free Library, Brooklyn, N. Y., was formally dedicated on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 26. About 1000 invitations to the exercises had been issued, and there was a large and interested attendance. The members of the library staff and of the library training class served as reception committee and ushers. The handsome building was decorated with flowers and potted plants, and the exercises were held in the hall containing the main stairway, seats being arranged on each of the two landings. Music was rendered by the Dannreuther quartette of New York. After the overture, prayer was offered by Rev. John Humpstone, of the Lafayette Avenue Baptist Church, and Charles M. Pratt, president of the board of trustees, then described the general purpose, equipment, and arrangement of the building.

The building as it now stands, Mr. Pratt said, is the outcome of many diverse plans, for when first conceived it was intended that the new structure should house not only the library, but the art department, museum, and auditorium of the Institute. The growth and future possibilities of the library, however, led to the discarding of these plans and the final acceptance of the design worked out in the present building, which is limited entirely to those lines of work conceived to be essentially and wisely embodied in the term "a public library." "Since its existence Pratt Institute has always maintained a free library, and its charter expressly states that such is to be one of the various objects which its founder proposed to accomplish.

"The cost of this structure and its equipment, without the books, has been \$190,000. The uses for which the various rooms are designed emphasize at once the public character of the work which we are doing. The large general reading-room on first floor front will be supplied with several hundred papers and periodicals—German, French, and Italian being represented. Adjoining that on the south is the children's reading and delivery room, where children may always find quiet and freedom for the reading and study of a large variety of youthful publications and about 1500 selected volumes, and where a trained librarian will be in attendance. This department of our library work has been, since its introduction five years ago, very helpful. Complete lists of books designed to provide for the growing child in its successive years of life a most comprehensive and discriminating selection of reading-matter have been prepared by our library staff, and have gone into many homes in our city, where they are currently used by the fathers and mothers in this fundamental work in the education of their children.

"At the western end of the building is the stack-room, with an area of 49 x 53 feet, comprising five distinct stories of stacks, with a capacity of something over 200,000 volumes, or

about five times our present number, and between it and the main hall is the large delivery-room. The whole of the second floor of this building will be devoted to reference work, to which will be assigned four trained assistants. In these various rooms will be found reference-books, bound periodicals, documents, transactions and reports of numerous kinds, to which every one has free access. In addition to these general reference-rooms there has been also set apart a large front room on the third floor for students who desire to consult works on art in all its forms, and our collection of mounted art photographs, to which we are now largely adding through current purchases in Europe, and which will number within a few months some 15,000. Our system of cataloging these art photographs will enable the student to supplement his reading on any art subject in a most efficient manner. The photographs may be consulted at the art reference-room, or circulated among those who are really serious students. A large room on the south side of the building, in the third story, is designed as an exhibition hall and will be utilized currently throughout the year for the exhibition of such art collections of note as we think will be helpful in educating our own students and interesting to the general public.

"The remaining rooms on the third story are at the disposal of our school of library training, which has been connected with the Institute since the winter of 1890, and, while started originally to supply our own library with needed satisfactorily trained workers, has developed into a complete school organization. The students now coming to it may safely challenge comparison with those of other library schools, we believe, as regards character, ability, and education. The number of applications received for annual entrance to the school have been four or five times greater than our capacity to accommodate, and the severity of the examination has made it possible for us to wisely limit our number to about 20. The demand for the services of our graduates has been greater than we could supply this last year, and positions are waiting for a number of the present class, while those who have already graduated from the school are occupying important positions in library work all over the country. For several years we have had in contemplation a second-year course, the time for the establishment of which seems now ripe. In planning the course the idea has been to give work that should not be merely an extension of the first year, but work of a different quality, covering the historical and bibliographical sides of library science. The need of catalogers and bibliographers who can deal with old and rare books, manuscripts, and inscriptions is growing in this country as European collections are bought by our colleges and universities and rarities by private collectors. So far as known this field has not been chosen by any of the other library schools, and so it seems well for us to pre-empt it. This course will be open the first time in the fall of 1896.

"Since the establishment of our own free library eight years ago there has been no other similar work undertaken in this city of Brooklyn. During these years the development of free public libraries in other sections of our country and in the state of New York, in many of our large centres, has been important and general. Never in my experience has there been a stronger desire expressed on the part of the citizens in various sections of the city for the advantages of a free public library than has come to me of late months; and while we have, beside this main library, branches located in Greenpoint and Atlantic avenue, and are supplying with books a number of philanthropic clubs for club use, and a number of our public schools, we have been unable to respond to many other requests for a like service. The field occupied by the few institutions which may fairly be considered as doing free public library work is so limited and so utterly fails to cover the needs as to make it appear almost as nothing, and yet I derive real comfort and fresh courage as I review the progress of our own work and note what a single library can do. The number of persons who have at any time drawn books is 33,821, and the number now actively doing so is 16,693. More than 97,000 visits to the reading-room have been noted in the last 11 months, and over 27,000 visits to the reference-room. The circulation for the last 11 months has been 256,627, an increase of 72,000 over the first 11 months of last year. Comparing this library with other libraries in New York state, it is found to be third in size among the circulating libraries and third in the extent of its circulation, according to the last printed report of the regents. Our inclination to do better and more work is as great as ever, but our financial ability to do this is naturally limited, and when the work as outlined in this new building shall have been rounded out we shall have reached the natural and proper limitation which our founder placed upon it. That we value this work most highly I feel sure I do not need to say, but simply as an evidence thereof and as an earnest of our desire to see it extended and enlarged in our city, I may say that we have in the main library and its branches a staff of 21 trained librarians and assistants, and that in addition to the fixed cost of heating, lighting, and general repairs we spend to maintain the entire work of the department \$35,000 a year, of which amount only a moderate and limited proportion has been appropriated for books. Finally I may say that so far as our work here is related to any organized effort looking to the proper and complete equipment of our city with the advantages of free libraries and the wise and economical distribution of the work which each may be best equipped to do, we shall at any time gladly cooperate."

At the conclusion of Mr. Pratt's address, Mr. F. B. Pratt, the chairman, introduced Mrs. Margaret Deland, remarking that the speakers of the occasion had been chosen to represent the three departments into which the library's work would be divided — the literary, the civi-

ic, and the educational. The literary aspect of the subject was fitly Mrs. Deland's theme, and she read a delightful paper on books and reading and their influence on character. The reading that was "worth while" was all that she took into consideration, and that, she thought, should be among the noblest and most elevating influences of life. The danger was that the noble impulse found in all literature that is "worth while" may affect the reader only as an emotion — not as a vital and moving force. Too many readers deliver themselves up to a sensuality of the emotions, allowing their reading to stimulate transient sensations only, and to produce no lasting moral or ethical results. She quoted Matthew Arnold's statement that religion was moral conduct affected by emotion, saying that she had too often found religion to be emotion unaffected by moral conduct; in the same way the noble aspirations and emotions excited by the reading of the great thoughts of literature may stimulate the emotions only and not reach the conscience. The public library is an antidote to mere emotion. It is, moreover, no respecter of persons, for rich and poor, learned and ignorant meet there on common ground. Seneca is not scrupulous as to the fashions, and Shakespeare is indifferent to bad grammar. The library is a great factor in social intercourse; so, in their measure, are our drawing-rooms and our street-cars, but the library combines the opportunities of these for mutual consideration, for thoughtfulness and courtesy. The value of a public library in a community no words can adequately portray, nor has science any method or calculus any formula by which to measure or estimate the good it may do to this and coming generations.

Dr. Truman J. Backus, president of Packer Collegiate Institute, then spoke on the civic influence of the public library. He drew an interesting picture of the contrast between the modern library and the old-time monastic *scriptorium*, likening the public library of to-day — open to all, offering its riches to all classes alike — to the great cathedral of the mediæval town, which rose massive, magnificent, and majestic from its surroundings of narrow streets and squalid hovels, and into which all — the mean, the wicked — might freely enter. Access to books, he said, is not a mere phase of modern civilization; it is the condition and an efficient cause of modern civilization, and now, after four centuries, we have come upon the time when the public library is essential to any rational method of popular education. He spoke in detail of the relations that should exist between public libraries and schools, and cited the work in this line inaugurated at Quincy, Mass., by Charles Francis Adams, that accomplished by Mr. Green at Worcester, and that done in Chicago and in Gloversville, N. Y., as examples and incentives to other cities.

Melvil Dewey, state librarian, was the last speaker, and his subject was the educational influence of the public library on the community. He spoke of the vast development of the library movement within recent years, and

said that in time to come this would be known as the "library age." The library was becoming more and more the focus of educational life, and its benefits were not confined only to the cities, but might be—through the system of travelling libraries—disseminated through the villages and isolated country districts, bringing refreshment and instruction to book-hungry people. In concluding, Mr. Dewey remarked that he had already overstepped the time allowed him, and was in much the same predicament as the small boy who, on the glorious Fourth, was presented by his mother with a 20-ball Roman candle, with the stern injunction, "Now, mind you don't let off more than two balls!"

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Humpstone, and the guests dispersed to inspect the details of the building and to view the collection of Swedish paintings displayed on the third floor. Among the library people present, besides the staff, students, and many graduates of the Institute library, were Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Carr, of the Scranton Public Library; Dr. G. E. Wire, formerly of the Newberry; G. H. Baker, C. A. Nelson, and several of the staff of Columbia University Library; Melvil Dewey, New York State Library; W. C. Lane, Library of the Boston Athenaeum; W. A. Bardwell, Brooklyn Library; S. H. Berry, Y. M. C. A. Library, Brooklyn; W. R. Eastman, New York State Library; and Miss Hull, of the Library of the Union for Christian Work.

The library building, which is opposite the Institute, on Ryerson street, is to form one of a group of three buildings, and was therefore planned to face the campus rather than the street, and to conform in shape and size to the building that was to form the opposite wing. The main building is three-storied, 70 x 100 feet, the five-story stack-room being 49 x 53 feet; the style is free Renaissance, without pilasters or columns, and the material is of red brick with trimmings of Belleville brownstone. Broad entrance-steps of stone and mosaic open upon a wide hall paved with stone mosaic, with side columns of Siena marble. The corridors and stairway are the most ornate portions of the building, the interior decorations being exceedingly simple. The color scheme is yellow and warm brown, which gives an effect of light and space; the floors, cornices, and trimmings are of stone mosaic and marble, and the wood-work of the first floor is in quartered oak finished in an olive tone; that of the other two stories is ash. On the left of the entrance is the librarian's office, 14 x 26, lighted from the north, communicating with the reading-room in front and by a private stairway with the floor above. This is lighted by both gas and electricity, and communicates by speaking-tubes and house telephones with every part of the building. The mechanical means of communication throughout the entire building are excellent.

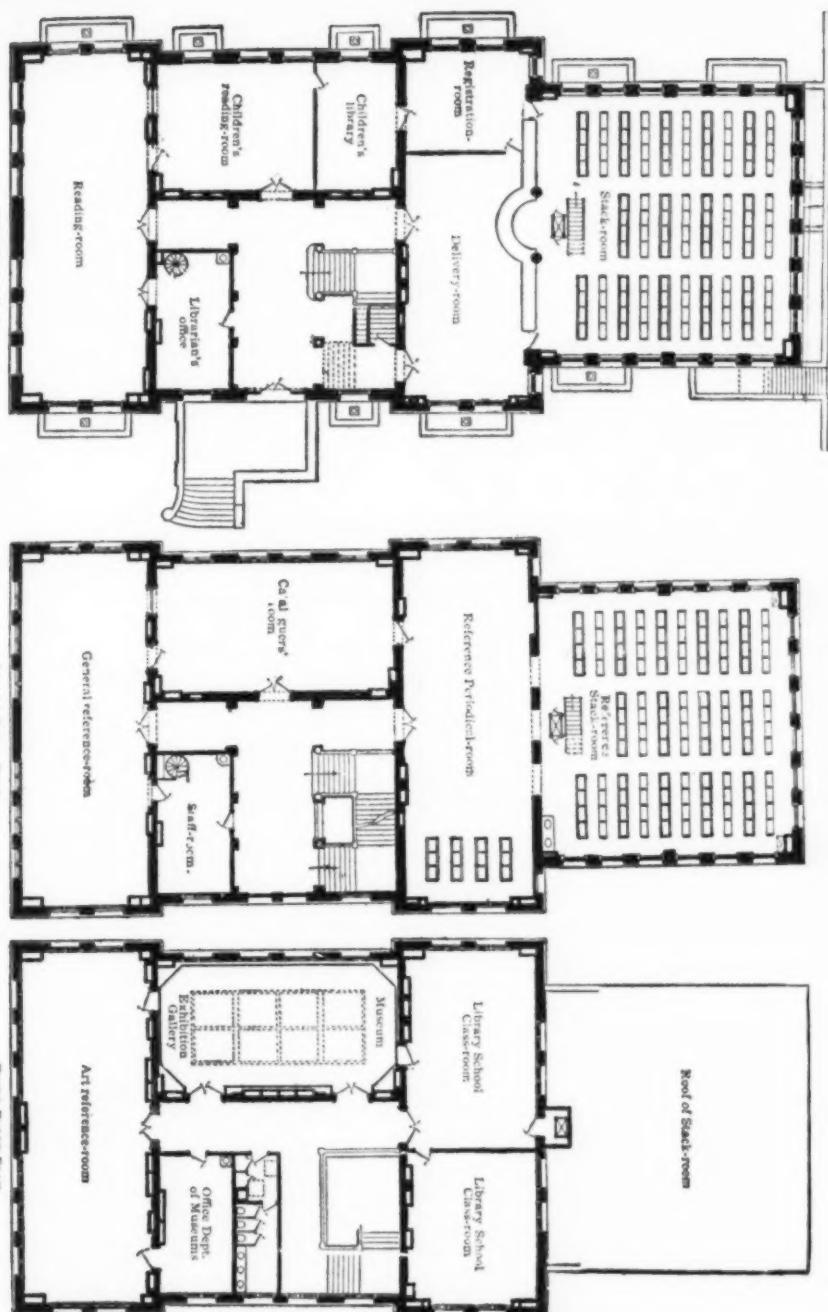
Directly opposite the librarian's office, at the extreme right, is the delivery-room, 24 x 66 feet, in which are the public card catalogs. The delivery-desk—low, and protected by a handsome screen of glass and iron—runs the

entire length of the room, while a low railing across the south end encloses a space, 16 x 24, which will be devoted to information-desk work and to the examination of new books, accessibly displayed. A central corridor, branching from the entrance hall, gives a second entrance to the delivery-room. Directly on this corridor, and facing the entrance, is the children's room, 25 x 45, lighted by four south windows. Here children under 14 will find tables, chairs, and abundance of books and magazines. Half of the room is railed off, with an entrance gate, and within this enclosure are low shelves, where the children's books will be ranged for free examination and selection, the gate preventing egress until the books have been properly charged. The entire work of choosing, issuing, receiving, and registering for the children will be carried on here. The general reading-room (for periodicals and newspapers only) is on the extreme right, opposite the delivery-room, and connecting with the central corridor and the librarian's office. It is 24 x 66, and is handsomely fitted with reading-tables and chairs, while the large counter is provided with small cupboard-like shelves for the back numbers of magazines, in addition to a large wall-case for the same.

The second floor is the reference floor—secure from interruption by children, transient visitors, book-borrowers, and newspaper or magazine readers, who are all provided for on the floor below. The plan is similar to that of the first story. Above the librarian's room, and communicating with it by a private stairway, is a "rest-room" for the use of the staff. This also communicates with the general reference-room, which is just above the periodical reading-room. It is large and well lighted, fitted with wall shelving, where the reference-books will be freely accessible, and provided with 15 tables, a large case for folios, and the attendant's desk. Opening from this, above the children's room, is the catalogers' room, which connects also with the periodical reference-room, above the delivery-room. This second reference-room is devoted to bound periodicals and to consultation of books wanted from the stack-room, while the fourth stack, which is even with this floor, will also be used for reference purposes, for the overflow of bound magazines, government documents, society transactions, etc.

The third floor is devoted to the library-class room, on the right, which will be eventually divided by partitions into the regular course room and the special two-years' course room, and which is connected by an electric book-elevator with the stack-room and the rooms directly below; to the central art-room, in which special collections will be from time to time displayed; and to the art reference-room containing the art-books and the library's large collection of mounted photographs. It is possible that later developments in the library's work may modify the uses now assigned to these rooms.

The basement contains four or five rooms in addition to the basement stack; in it are placed



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

FLOOR PLANS OF PRATT INSTITUTE LIBRARY, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

THIRD FLOOR PLAN.

the storage and unpacking rooms, the heating and lighting apparatus. The building is lighted by electricity, though gas is also supplied in the offices.

The amply lighted stack-room, fireproof, and forming a wing to the main building, is five-storyed and opens directly from each floor. Directly back of the electric book-elevator, by which books may be brought to every floor, an easy flight of stairs leads from one stack to another. The floors are of glass set in an iron framework, the pieces about 10 x 18 inches. The shelving is of L. B. construction, with bronzed iron frames and dark oak shelves. The central aisles are 34 feet wide, and the cross aisles between the stacks 2½ feet. The library will be able to fill the first floor of the stack at once, about 40,000 volumes, and will next use the stack above.

The work of moving the books was accomplished with remarkable order and rapidity; it was completed without closing the library or causing serious inconvenience to the public, and the new library was open in all departments on Monday, June 1.

#### BEST BOOKS OF 1895 FOR A VILLAGE LIBRARY.

MADE up by combining the votes of 15 librarians selected as expert judges of books, revised by M. S. Cutler, after consultation with J. N. Larned, and accepted at the Syracuse meeting of the New York State Library Association, May 30, 1896.

##### Books of reference.

- 1 Leypoldt, Mrs. A. H., and Iles, George. List of books for girls and women and their clubs. Lib. Bur., \$1.
- 2 Willsey, J. H., comp. Harper's book of facts. Harper, \$8.

##### Religion.

- 3 Balfour, A. J. Foundations of belief. Longmans, \$2.

Alden's "Study of death" and Le Roy Beau-lieu's "Israel among the nations" are suggested as alternates for a library where it is thought Balfour would not find readers.

##### Social science.

- 4 Brooks, Noah. How the republic is governed. Scribner, 75 c.
- 5 Shaw, Albert. Municipal government in Continental Europe. Century, \$2.
- 6 — Municipal government in Great Britain. Century, \$2.

Mr. Larned would leave out Shaw's books for a small library, and would add instead in Useful arts Mason's "Origins of invention" and Shaler's "Domesticated animals."

- 7 Wright, C. D. Industrial evolution of the United States. (Chautauqua.) Flood, \$1.

*Education.*

- 8 Martin, G. H. Evolution of the Massachusetts public school system. (Internat. educ. ser.) Appleton, \$1.50.

- 9 Wiggin, Mrs. K. D., and Smith, N. A. Froebel's gifts. (The republic of childhood, v. 1.) Houghton, \$1.

##### Folk-lore and fairy-tales.

- 10 Harris, J. C. Mr. Rabbit at home. Houghton, \$2.
- 11 Lang, Andrew. My own fairy-book. Longmans, \$2.

##### Natural science.

- 12 Clodd, Edward. Story of primitive man. (Lib. of useful stories.) Appleton, 40 c.
- 13 Lowell, Percival. Mars. Houghton, \$2.50.
- 14 Scudder, S. H. Frail children of the air. Houghton, \$1.50.
- 15 Wright, M. O. Birdcraft. Macmillan, \$3.

##### Useful arts.

- 16 Atkinson, Philip. Electricity for everybody. Century, \$1.50.

See note under Social science.

##### Music.

- 17 Guerber, H. A. Stories of the Wagner operas. Dodd, \$1.50.

##### Amusements and sports.

- 18 Porter, L. H. Cycling for health and pleasure. Dodd, \$1.

##### Fiction.

- 19 Barlow, Jane. Strangers at Lisconnel. Dodd, \$1.25.
- 20 Burnham, Mrs. C. L. The wise woman. Houghton, \$1.25.
- 21 Clemens, S. L. Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson. Am. Pub. Co., \$2.50.
- 22 Coffin, C. C. Daughters of the revolution and their times. Houghton, \$1.50.
- 23 Crawford, F. M. The Ralstons. 2 v. Macmillan, \$2.
- 24 Davis, R. H. Princess Aline. Harper, \$1.25.
- 25 Grahame, Kenneth. The golden age. Stone, \$1.25.
- 26 Jewett, S. O. Life of Nancy. Houghton, \$1.25.
- 27 Maartens, Maarten, *pseud.* My lady Nobody. Harper, \$1.50.
- 28 Maclare, Ian, *pseud.* Days of auld lang syne. Dodd, \$1.25.
- 29 Parker, Gilbert. When Valmond came to Pontiac. Stone, \$1.50.
- 30 Smith, F. H. Gentleman vagabond and some others. Houghton, \$1.25.
- 31 Stockton, F. R. Adventures of Captain Horn. Scribner, \$1.50.
- 32 Ward, Mrs. E. S. P. A singular life. Houghton, \$1.25.
- 33 Weyman, S. J. From the memoirs of a minister of France. Longmans, \$1.25.
- 34 — Red cockade. Harper, \$1.50.
- 35 Wiggin, Mrs. K. D. Village watch-tower. Houghton, \$1.
- 36 Zangwill, Israel. The master. Harper, \$1.75.

*Juvenile.*

37 Brown, H. D. Little Miss Phoebe Gay. Houghton, \$1.  
 38 Henty, G. A. Knight of the white cross. Scribner, \$1.50, or, Through Russian snows. Scribner, \$1.50, or, Tiger of Mysore. Scribner, \$1.50.  
 39 Kipling, Rudyard. Second jungle book. Century, \$1.50.  
 40 Lang, Andrew. Red true story-book. Longmans, \$2.  
 41 Munroe, Kirk. At war with Pontiac. Scribner, \$1.25.  
 42 Thaxter, Mrs. Celia. Stories and poems for children. Houghton, \$1.50.

*Poetry.*

43 Stedman, E. C. Victorian anthology, 1837-1895. Houghton, \$2.50.

*Other literature.*

44 Van Dyke, Henry. Little rivers. Scribner, \$2.

*Description and travel.*

45 Bourget, Paul. Outre-mer. Scribner, \$1.75.  
 46 Davis, R. H. About Paris. Harper, \$1.25.  
 47 Hapgood, I. F. Russian rambles. Houghton, \$1.50.  
 48 King, Grace. New Orleans, the place and the people. Macmillan, \$2.50.  
 49 Norman, Henry. Peoples and politics of the far East. Scribner, \$4.  
 50 Ralph, Julian. Dixie. Harper, \$2.50.  
 51 Remington, Frederick. Pony tracks. Harper, \$3.  
 52 Stevenson, R. L. Amateur emigrant from the Clyde to Sandy Hook. Stone, \$1.25.  
 53 Vincent, Frank. Actual Africa. Appleton, \$5.

*Biography.*

54 Arnold, Matthew. Letters of Matthew Arnold, 1848-1888. 2 v. Macmillan, \$3.  
 55 Sherman, John. Recollections of 40 years in the house, senate, and cabinet. 2 v. Werner Co., \$7.50.  
 56 Stevenson, R. L. Vailima letters. 2 v. Stone & Kimball, \$2.25.

*European history.*

57 Baird, H. M. Huguenots and the revocation of the edict of Nantes. 2 v. Scribner, \$7.50.  
 58 Greene, F. D. Armenian crisis in Turkey. Putnam, \$1.  
     The new edition, under title "The rule of the Turk," should be bought now.  
 59 Latimer, Mrs. E. W. Europe in Africa in the 19th century. McClurg, \$2.50.

*American history.*

60 Grinnell, G. B. Story of the Indians. (Story of the West ser.) Appleton, \$1.50.  
 61 Lodge, H. C., and Roosevelt, Theodore. Hero tales from American history. Century, \$1.50.  
 62 Walker, F. A. Making of the nation, 1783-1817. (American hist. ser.) Scribner, \$1.25.

## AN AUSTRALASIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

An Intercolonial Librarians' Conference was held in Melbourne, Australia, from April 21-25, for the purpose of forming a permanent library organization. The conference opened on April 21, in the National Gallery, about 80 librarians, representing the principal cities and towns of Australasia, being present.

The aims of the members were fully set forth in the opening address of Sir John Madden, chief justice, who acted as presiding officer of the conference. He spoke of the vast increase of literature and said that organization was one of the most essential needs in library work. The first librarians' conference designed to meet this need was held in America at New York in 1853. 20 years later a similar gathering was convened at Philadelphia, and in 1877 a librarians' conference was held in London. Both the latter had done much good, having led to the establishment of librarians' societies, each containing 500 members, which issued monthly periodicals wherein matters of interest to those who conducted libraries were discussed. In 1894 Dr. Leeper, the master of Trinity College, Melbourne, was struck by the fact that in the group of seven Australasian colonies—the people of which from the earliest period of settlement had endowed libraries in their respective territories for free public use—there might be some good done by imitating the examples set in America and England, especially as not less than 2,000,000 volumes had been gathered together within their limits. This conference was the outcome of Dr. Leeper's suggestion, the idea having been taken up by the trustees of the Melbourne Public Library and a committee of 40 to 50 ladies and gentlemen.

Governor Brassey then made a short speech, expressing his warm interest in the proposed association, and after a vote of thanks to Sir John Madden had been passed the assembly adjourned to a *conversazione* which was attended by about 500 persons, including Governor and Lady Brassey, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Bishops of Melbourne and Northern Queensland, and members of the government ministry. Much of the time of the members was given up to sight-seeing and entertainment. On April 24 they visited the Parliament-Houses and were shown over the Parliament library by Mr. Church, the librarian. They were then received by Governor and Lady Brassey at the Government House, where Lord Brassey's fine collections of books and pictures were viewed with interest. A reception at the town hall and a visit to the Melbourne Atheneum followed.

At 3 p.m. a meeting was held in the town hall, about 60 persons being present. Dr. Leeper presided and papers were read on "The book trade in Australia," by A. Melville, "The Public Lending Library of Victoria," by Dr. Bride, and "Fiction in public libraries," by Dr. J. P. Wilson. Each paper was informally discussed.

The final session of the conference was held in the town hall at 8 p.m., when Chief Justice Madden took the chair. The object of the meeting was to adopt a constitution for a permanent conference. Dr. Leeper read and explained the effect of the proposed constitution, which was then discussed clause by clause. It was decided that the association be called the Library Association of Australasia, and that its first annual meeting be held in Sydney. The following officers were elected for the current half year: President, Hon. Dr. Morton; Vice-presidents, Chief Justice Way, Sir James Agnew, Sir George Verdon, Sir Samuel Griffith, Sir James Lee Steere, and the president of the Wellington Public Library; Honorary secretary, H. C. L. Anderson, chief librarian of the New South Wales Public Library, Sydney; Honorary treasurer, Professor MacCallum.

#### CO-OPERATIVE CATALOGING OF SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

THE following circular has been issued by the Royal Society of London to the delegates of the various nations, now numbering about 30, who have been appointed to attend the International Conference on an international catalog of scientific literature, to be held in London in July. It will be noted that the society proposes to restrict the catalog to "branches of pure science," excluding applied sciences:

"In anticipation of the forthcoming International Conference to consider the preparation of a catalog of scientific literature by international co-operation, we are directed to address to you the following:

"It is proposed that the conference shall be held at the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, London, beginning on Tuesday, July 14, 1896, at 11 a.m.

"One of the earliest acts of this first meeting will be to appoint an organizing committee to determine the mode of procedure (including the language or languages to be used at the conference), the course of business, and the way in which votes shall be recorded on occasions when it will be necessary to have recourse to formal voting.

"The committee of the Royal Society hopes to be in a position to bring definite proposals before the conference with regard to its main work. Meanwhile, we are directed to submit to your consideration the following provisional suggestions, and to invite remarks from you upon them:

"1. That the proposed International authors and subject catalog of scientific literature shall be restricted, in the first instance, to branches of pure science, such as mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, zoölogy, botany, physiology, and anthropology, to the exclusion of applied sciences, such as engineering, medicine, and the like; the determination of the distinction between pure and applied science being left to the conference.

"2. That in such an International catalog of science all definite contributions to pure sci-

ence shall be thoroughly indexed, whether occurring in books, memoirs, etc., treating of pure science, or in those devoted to applied or practical science — in other words, that the catalog shall not be confined to papers published in certain periodicals, or to books of a certain category.

"3. That with regard to the form of the said catalog:

"(a) There shall be a first issue of authors' titles, subject-matter, etc., in the form of *slips* or *cards*, which shall be distributed as speedily and as frequently as possible to subscribers generally.

"(b) That a further issue in book form, in a state for use as a permanent work of reference, shall take place at such intervals as may be determined on, parts corresponding to the several sciences being, if found desirable, published separately.

"4. That, in order to secure the preparation and publication of such an International catalog, a central bureau shall be established under the control of an International Council.

"5. That the whole of the catalog shall be prepared and issued subject to the authority of the International Council, and that any particular undertakings which may be allotted to particular countries, institutions, or persons shall be subsidiary to the work of the central bureau and subject to its control.

"6. That the cost of preparing and publishing the said slip- and book-catalogs at the central bureau during the years 1900-1904, in so far as these are not met by sales, shall be provided for by means of a guarantee fund, and that application be made to governments, learned societies, institutions, and individuals throughout the world, to assist in establishing such a fund.

"The conference will also have to take into consideration the following matters among others:

"(a) Supposing that a plan of a central bureau is adopted, where shall the bureau be placed?

"(b) The mode of appointment and organization of the International Council in charge of the bureau.

"(c) The language or languages to be adopted for the catalog.

"(d) The system of classification to be adopted in the subject index. It is suggested that the decimal system of Dewey may be so amended as to be worthy of adoption.

"There is necessarily the greatest difficulty in estimating the cost of the work in advance, or in forming an opinion as to the extent to which such an enterprise will be self-supporting. It will, probably, therefore, be best to raise a guarantee fund covering a period not less than five years, within which period it will undoubtedly be possible to determine the cost of the enterprise. The annual sum to be thus secured may be approximately estimated at £10,000.

"M. FOSTER, *Secretary, R.S.*

"RAYLEIGH, *Secretary, R.S.*

"E. FRANKLAND, *For. Sec., R.S.*"

## TRAVELLING LIBRARIES FOR PHILADELPHIA.

THE trustees of the Free Library of Philadelphia recently decided that a development of the travelling library system, as inaugurated in New York, Wisconsin, and other states, would be a valuable feature of the free library system in Philadelphia. They have, therefore, just established a travelling library organization which will first meet the wants of the different localities within the city limits and will then be extended, if possible, to cover the state. For this purpose several complete libraries have been purchased, comprising the books which were selected by the New York State Library and are included in its different catalogs. Already residents of some 15 or 16 different districts have asked for the privileges of the libraries, and it is hoped that by September at the latest 10 or 12 localities will be supplied. It is proposed that the system, both for the city and the state, shall be managed by the board of trustees of the Free Library, but all expenses connected with it are to be provided from an independent fund, as the city moneys, of course, are not applicable to that purpose. The localities first provided with books will be the various Western Union and American District Telegraph stations and several firemen's depots; four libraries have also been promised to the four principal stations of the Pennsylvania Railroad within the city limits. The Civic Club, of Philadelphia has agreed to co-operate with the Free Library, and the work that they had started in this line to meet the wants of these readers has been entirely handed over to the new organization, while Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, the president of the Civic Club, and a committee of that body have been appointed to carry on the work in union with the library. The state work will soon cover several localities in Clearfield county, where two or three of the corporations having large coal interests have agreed, in return for the privileges of the libraries, to maintain reading-rooms and provide a librarian for each. In order that the work may be concentrated in its results, the librarians of Pittsburgh favor throwing in their work with the Philadelphia end of the system. The matter has been pleasantly spoken of by the Pittsburgh press, and Mr. Anderson, of the Pittsburgh Carnegie Library, and Mr. Stevenson, of the Allegheny Carnegie Library, are very anxious to co-operate. If this system can be developed during the remainder of the present year, an application will be made to the coming session of the Pennsylvania legislature for a state grant for the development of the work on the principles followed in other states.

At the forthcoming A. L. A. Conference at Cleveland this subject has been put upon the program, and Mr. Montgomery, of the Wagner Institute of Science and a trustee of the Free Library, and Mr. Thomson, librarian of the Free Library of Philadelphia, have been appointed to get together all the facts and statistics necessary to found a discussion.

## MEANS OF POPULARIZING THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE report of the Examining committee of the Boston Public Library, in the 40th (1895) annual report of the library, contains some interesting suggestions as to advertising the library and making its privileges and facilities more generally known. The various delivery stations and branches should, in the opinion of the committee, be advertised more conspicuously than at present. "If at all railway stations, at all stations of the electric cars, at all branch post-offices, and at all school-houses a conspicuous notice might be posted stating where the nearest branch or delivery station of the Public Library may be found, a decided increase in the use and efficiency of such branches and stations might be expected."

Bringing the contents of the library more effectively to public attention is also desirable. In effecting this "the special subject lists have proved of great value, especially to students, and their publication should be continued within the limits of a wise discretion as to subjects and expense. The committee suggest that these lists be made more generally available within the library by the placing of distinctively bound copies of them upon the tables within easy reach of every reader. The later bulletins issued have been mainly devoted to lists of books in the library upon special topics—a departure from the original purpose of the bulletin, which was to publish occasional lists of the new books added to the library. It seems to the committee desirable to discontinue the present bulletin, and substitute for it a weekly classified list of new additions. This should include short titles with little bibliographical detail, and wherever necessary and practicable the addition of a line indicating the character and scope of the book. It appears from the limited sale of the bulletin in the past, though placed at a merely nominal price, that it reaches but a small number of people, and that no information about the books which interest them reaches the large mass of people who do not visit the library. It is thought that the free distribution of the lists of new books through the schools might be serviceable, and that an experiment in this direction might wisely be tried.

"In order to increase the popular use of the library the committee advise the publication, from time to time, or at regular intervals, of articles in the daily or Sunday newspapers, relating to the additions made to the library, and to the popular sources of information it contains upon the subjects which, for the time being, are uppermost in the public mind, the purpose being to suggest attractive and useful books to that portion of the public which seldom visits the library, and stimulate the reading of useful and instructive books of a popular and interesting character. Such information in the columns of a newspaper would also serve the broader purpose of suggestive aid to many other libraries in the Commonwealth."

## POLITICS IN THE TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The difficulties over the appointment of a librarian to the Tacoma (Wash.) Public Library, previously noted in the *JOURNAL*, have been finally concluded. Mr. W. Curtis Taylor, the former librarian, has given up the contest, and intends, it is understood, taking up his residence in Philadelphia. Mr. Herbert Bashford, the new librarian, while a political appointee, has had library experience, having for a time been in charge of the Mercantile Library, the nucleus of the present Public Library.

In a recent interview in a Tacoma paper, Mr. Taylor gives some sound views as to the effect of politics on libraries. He says: "Universal experience has shown that whenever a public library comes to be regarded as a 'plum' for the reward, not of efficient library service, but of efficient political service, it always declines.

"Here it is most important not to be misunderstood. This is not a question of the relative merits of those holding positions. Succeeding librarians might, if let alone, be better qualified for the place than the one who last filled it, but the trouble is the heart is taken out of such work as soon as the incumbent is brought under the political yoke. If a librarian, no matter how worthy, is only installed as one of many appointees till the next turn of the machine, or, using the lingo of the politician, to 'hold down a job,' what becomes of ambitious, patient upbuilding? Scholarly and painstaking enthusiasm and the spirit of general helpfulness dwindle before the terrors of the 'next election.' The better the librarian the more is he disqualified for holding his own in so foreign a field.

"Again, in a library too limited in funds to have a complete corps of assistants, its chief is expected, besides having ability for a business of unusual detail, to have the contents of the books at his finger ends. To expect a fresh incumbent to spring into such proficiency at the pleasure of every new mayor is humorously absurd."

## A NEW INDEX TO PERIODICALS.

THE Cleveland Public Library has issued a prospectus of a monthly index to periodicals, which it is planned to publish from that library, provided a sufficient number of subscriptions are secured. It will include 50 or more of the leading periodicals, selected from a consensus of opinions of those subscribers sending in lists in time for consideration, and it is hoped to issue each number, except the last, not later than the 10th of each month.

"The index will be on the plan of a dictionary catalog, including in one alphabetic series author, subject, and title, if the title is noteworthy. Each article will receive the same consideration as that given a book in dictionary cataloging. The size and style of the page and the plan of the work will be similar to that of the Cleveland Public Library catalog. The

index for 1896 will begin with the June number, and each successive number until November will be cumulative, that is, each number will include in one alphabetic series all the entries of the previous numbers. The December issue will be made an annual number, will include the entries in the previous issues, will index the periodicals for December, and also for January to May inclusive, thus making it a complete index for the year 1896 for the periodicals included. This annual number will be printed on no. 1 paper, and will be furnished to all subscribers in cloth binding without extra charge. If the index meets with sufficient support to warrant its continuance, the issues hereafter will be made cumulative from January to December of each year."

The price of the index will vary according to the number of subscriptions received. If there are but 200 subscribers, it will be \$10 per year; if 250, it will be \$8; if 300, \$7, and if 400, \$5. Subscriptions are conditional upon the completion of the volume for the year, and are payable after the issue of the sixth monthly number of the index.

## THE L. B. PRINTED CATALOG CARDS.

The following circular has been issued by the Library Bureau from Boston:

"Our service of printed catalog cards for current literature has now continued for two and one-half years, and the experiment, which until we took the matter up had failed whenever tried, is now an assured fact.

"One condition seriously impairs our service to our library subscribers, and that is the feeling of the publishers toward us. They cannot refrain from classing us with the balance of their 'free list,' and this has a tendency (1) to delay their service to us, so that with only the greatest difficulty do we get reasonable promptness, and (2) to restrict their supply to us so that we do not get as many books as we ought.

"We do not wish our name connected with any project in the interest of the public libraries of the country unless it is in every way a thorough success, and therefore we have called the attention of the Publishing Section of the American Library Association to this work. We believe that should we transfer to them the actual responsibility for this co-operative work the publishers would at once put themselves into closer connection with them than with us, and the difficulties we have enumerated above would be for the most part, if not entirely, removed.

"The probability is that the Publishing Section would be able to arrange to have the cataloging done at the Library School in Albany, under the supervision of an expert cataloger, responsible to the section, so as to secure promptness in the work. Cataloging done under these conditions, and with the necessary bibliographical tools at hand, could be more thorough than has been possible for this office to furnish."

### American Library Association.

*President*: J. C. Dana, Public Library, Denver, Col.  
*Secretary*: H. L. Elmendorf, Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.  
*Acting Treasurer*: E. L. Anderson, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
*18th Conference*, Cleveland, O., Sept. 1-4, 1896.

EIGHTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE,  
 CLEVELAND, OHIO, SEPT. 1-4, 1896.

#### PRELIMINARY NOTES.

TUESDAY, September 1.—*Afternoon*.—Inspection of Cleveland libraries.

*Evening*.—First session. Hollenden Hotel. No formal program. Members will renew old and make new acquaintances. Preparations for the work of the conference. Rooms will be decorated with souvenirs of previous meetings. There will be an exhibit of library appliances.

WEDNESDAY, September 2, 9 a.m.—Second session.—President's address—John Cotton Dana, librarian Public Library, Denver, Colo. Further arrangements for this session cannot be definitely announced at this time. The program will, however, include an historical sketch of the A. L. A. and its work, reports of library work in Boston, New York, Chicago, and Washington, and a general discussion of needs and opportunities. Messrs. Winsor, Putnam, Hild, Billings, Green, Crandall, and others have been invited to address the conference.

2:30 p.m.—Third session.—Reports: Executive board; Meetings; proposed European trip; library primer.

Treasurer: Report; necrology.

Standing committees.

Sections.

Readers' aids and guides—Mr. G. Iles, New York City.

Gifts and bequests—Miss C. M. Hewins, librarian Public Library, Hartford, Ct.

Library exhibit at the Atlanta Exposition—Miss Alice B. Kroeger, librarian Drexel Institute, Philadelphia.

Paper—Library exhibitions of photographs and engravings—C. A. Cutter, librarian Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.

It is proposed to have reports, as far as possible, printed and placed in members' hands before the conference. An opportunity will be given for the discussion of each.

*Evening*.—Reception by the Rowfant Club. THURSDAY, September 3, 9 a.m.—Fourth session.

Paper—Advertising a library—Miss L. E. Stearns, supt. circulating department Public Library, Milwaukee, Wis.

Paper—Library editions of popular fiction.—C. R. Dudley, librarian City Library, Denver, Colo.

10:30. — Joint meeting of the A. L. A. and the Trustees' Section. Mr. C. C. Soule, president of the Trustees' Section, will preside. Many prominent library trustees have promised to be present. Mr. F. M. Crunden, librarian St. Louis Public (Free) Library, will address the meeting on behalf of librarians.

*Afternoon*.—Fifth session.—Cleveland afternoon, in charge of local committee. Visit to the new Hatch Library of Adelbert College, the Woodland Branch and the Miles Park Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. Light refreshments will be served at the Miles Park Branch.

8 p.m.—Sixth session.—Report of the committee on the A. L. A. catalog supplement, Miss Mary L. Cutler, vice-director New York State Library School, chairman. Discussion of a selected list of books.

FRIDAY, September 4, 9 a.m.—Seventh session. Paper—Relation of the bookseller to the librarian—Almond Burtch, of the library department of A. C. McClurg & Co. Paper—"Do's"—Miss Ellen M. Chandler, of the Buffalo (N. Y.) Library. This will call to mind the "Don'ts," presented by Miss Chandler at the Lake Placid Conference.

From 10 to 12:30 will be devoted especially to matters of interest to young and inexperienced librarians. Those to whom subjects have been assigned will endeavor to answer all questions asked them.

Library furniture, fixtures, and appliances—C. A. Cutter, librarian Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.

Selection of books—sources of information, adaptation of books to community, class proportion—Miss Caroline M. Hewins, librarian Public Library, Hartford, Ct. Reading-room and periodicals—Miss Hannah P. James, librarian Osterhout Free Library, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Accessioning, classifying, and cataloging—W. I. Fletcher, librarian Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.

Preparing books for issue, and Charging systems—Frank P. Hill, librarian Public Library, Newark, N. J.

Reference books and reference work—S. S. Green, librarian Public Library, Worcester, Mass.

The librarian's annual report—Miss Caroline H. Garland, librarian Public Library, Dover, N. H.

2:30—Eighth session—Election of officers; reports of special committees; meetings of sections and state associations.

*Evening*.—Annual A. L. A. dinner. Judge Hutchins, president of the board of trustees of the Cleveland Public Library, will preside.

At midnight Friday night the party will leave by steamer for Detroit. Breakfast will be furnished by the steamship company at 50 cents each. The Detroit people have invited the A.

L. A. to a ride over the city, and lunch at the pavilion in the park. At 3 p.m. the party will take the Star Line boat for Grande Pointe, through the St. Clair Flats; fare not to exceed 50 cents each. Dinner at the Grande Pointe Club-house as guests of the club, and entertainment in the evening until the arrival of the Mackinaw steamer.

TUESDAY, September 8.—*Ninth and final session*, Mackinaw. Lecture, The story of Mackinaw—Reuben G. Thwaites, secretary Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wis. Unfinished business.

With the exception of the first evening session, the Cleveland meeting will be held in the hall of the Chamber of Commerce.

One of the topics for discussion at the conference, although its place on the program is not definitely announced, will be the subject of travelling libraries and their use as a development of a city library's work, to be presented by Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Thomson, of Philadelphia.

The Hollenden Hotel has been selected as headquarters. Rates, \$3 per day. Rooms may be engaged in advance at this hotel, or at \$2 at the Forest City Hotel and other hotels convenient to place of meeting, or in good boarding-houses for from \$1 to \$1.50 per day, by writing to W. H. Brett, librarian Cleveland Public Library, chairman of the local committee.

One and a third fare for the round trip, on the certificate plan, will be granted on all roads. Full information as to routes and rates will be given later.

For the post-conference trip exceedingly low rates have been secured. From Cleveland to Mackinaw and return, \$13. From Detroit to Mackinaw and return, \$10. One way rate from Cleveland to Mackinaw, \$8. One way rate from Detroit to Mackinaw, \$6. These figures include meals and berths on the steamer both ways. Stop-over allowed at Detroit. Return ticket good at any time. Hotel expenses on shore at Mackinaw will be \$3 per day.

To secure these very low rates it will be necessary to guarantee a certain number. All members who intend going on the post-conference trip should immediately notify Mr. W. H. Brett, Cleveland, O., or the secretary, H. L. Elmendorf, St. Joseph, Mo.

Final program, with itinerary and definite rates, will be published later.

J. C. DANA, President, { Program Committee.  
H. L. ELMENDORF, Sec. {

#### TO EASTERN LIBRARIANS.

LIBRARIANS and others who expect to attend the A. L. A. Conference, and wish to join the party from New York, are requested to send their names as soon as possible to the recorder, that arrangements may be made in ample season for the best route, parlor-car accommodations, and lowest rates. Those who do not pass through New York can arrange to join the party at Buffalo. "Come one, come all."

C: ALEX. NELSON, Recorder.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, {  
NEW YORK.

#### PETITION TO THE N. E. A.

THE following petition, signed by the members of the executive board, will be presented to the National Educational Association at its meeting in Buffalo, and the matter of a closer union between the A. L. A. and the N. E. A. will be discussed at the Cleveland Conference:

"To the Honorable Board of Directors of the National Education Association.

"GENTLEMEN: The American Library Association respectfully urges you to take favorable action on the petition which has been presented to you by certain teachers, asking you to establish a school library section of the National Educational Association.

"Only by the closest co-operation between teachers and librarians can the work of arousing the interest of children in books and reading, and inducing them to read the books best fitted for them, be accomplished. Teachers and librarians are natural allies, and we believe that the founding of the section asked for will be a great help in the extension of the librarian's field into the school-room, and of the teacher's field into the library.

"Should the section be organized, we request that delegates be appointed to confer with the librarians at the annual meeting of the A. L. A. in Cleveland, September 1-4, 1896."

#### PUBLISHING SECTION.

THE executive board of the A. L. A. Publishing Section met at the Park Avenue Hotel, New York, Friday, Dec. 12, 1895, all members being present. No meeting of the section having been held at the Denver Conference of the association and no new election having taken place, the board considered that the terms of its members continued until a new election should be held.

The minutes of the last meeting, Dec. 3, 1894, were approved.

*Voted*, That the minutes of the executive board be regularly printed in the LIBRARY JOURNAL for the information of members of the section and others interested.

*Voted*, That application be made to the A. L. A. Council (in accordance with a vote passed at the last meeting), requesting it to authorize the trustees of the endowment fund to pay over to the Publishing Section the income of that fund up to \$1000, to be used as a working capital to enable the section to carry on the work committed to it.

The secretary read a letter from the Library Bureau in regard to the terms on which it could afford to handle the section's publications.

*Voted*, That the terms proposed, viz., a commission of 15% on sales in addition to the expense of distribution (postage or express), be agreed to.

The secretary reported in regard to the A. L. A. Index that 37 copies had been sold in the year ending Aug. 1, 1895, netting \$131.60, of which \$112.04 had been paid over to the editor in accordance with the agreement with him.

*Voted.* That a supplement to the A. L. A. Index be prepared for publication in 1897, and that, if advance subscriptions warrant, it be consolidated with the material of the previous volume.

*Voted.* That Mr. Fletcher be requested to proceed with the compilation of this supplement.

In regard to "Reading for the young," the secretary reported that there still existed a steady demand for a few copies, 88 having been sold in the last 12 months, and 3589 in all since publication, in Oct., 1890. The returns had covered all expenses of publication except \$111.39. Mr. Fletcher reported that a supplement to "Reading for the young," compiled by Miss Sargent, was in the printer's hands.

*Voted.* To page the supplement continuously with the original and to include in it a subject index to the whole; to issue it in two forms, by itself and bound with the original; to invite advance subscriptions for the complete form; and to print as a first edition 1000 copies of the separate supplement and 250 copies of the complete form, in addition to the number subscribed for in advance; circulars to be sent out later when the work is ready for the press and the price can be determined.

*Voted.* That the property of the section in stock and plates be kept insured, the amount of insurance to be at the treasurer's discretion.

The treasurer reported that the "List of subject headings" prepared by a committee of the Library Association had been printed and copies distributed to members and for sale in October; 500 copies had been printed at an expense of about \$460.

*Voted.* That the publications of the section be offered to actual students in library schools and training classes at half the list prices if bought for their own use.

*Voted.* That a complete list of the publications of the section be printed in connection with each new publication issued, so far as practicable.

The treasurer was directed to arrange for the permanent advertisement of the section's publications in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* and *Publishers' Weekly*, provided suitable special terms could be obtained, not to exceed \$50 a year.

The treasurer and Mr. Iles reported on the "List of books for girls and women" that an edition of 2000 copies in the small form in separate parts and of 3000 copies in the large form complete in one volume had been lately issued, and that initial sales had been encouraging. The total expense of printing, binding, etc., had been \$1983.42. Mr. Iles furnished gratis for this publication the ms., editorial work, press copies, and advertising, and advanced the money to meet the cost of production, this to be repaid to him quarterly from the proceeds of sales, the surplus, if any, to belong to the Publishing Section. The expense of the press copies, estimated at \$174.74, is to be deducted from the amount stated above, leaving \$1808.68 to be repaid to Mr. Iles as the section is able.

*Resolved.* That the Publishing Section records its cordial appreciation and earnest thanks to its associate, Mr. George Iles, for his most generous service to the American Library Association and to all readers of books in both editing and providing for the large expense of publication of the evaluated "List of books for women and girls," recently issued through the Publishing Section, and that this minute be specifically reported at the next conference of the American Library Association.

It was voted to accept Mr. Iles's offer to furnish the ms. of two manuals of books on Fine arts and Music, to be prepared and annotated by Mr. Russell Sturgis and Mr. H. E. Krehbiel respectively, and to be edited by Mr. Iles, and the treasurer was authorized to expend a sum not exceeding \$500 for the plates of these manuals, this to cover plates in small size and, if possible, in large size, 1000 copies small and 250 large to be printed.

*Voted.* To authorize the treasurer to provide for printing lists on specific subjects from the "List of books for girls and women" for which there may be a sufficient demand to cover the cost.

The treasurer presented from Miss C. M. Hewins the ms. of a "Brief list of children's books," prepared in accordance with a vote passed at the last meeting. The ms. was accepted subject to the author's revision, and the secretary was instructed to request her to add notes, descriptive, critical, and comparative, and to allow the members of the executive board and others, at her discretion, to see galley proofs of the list when put into print. The list will be published in the small form and sold at 10 cents a copy, with a liberal discount on sales in quantity.

The treasurer reported that in his opinion the work of the Publishing Section could be much simplified by giving up the plan of membership and advance subscriptions from members, which had never yielded more than a scanty sum for the purposes of the section, and depending instead for capital on loans or grants from the endowment fund, the executive board to be appointed or elected annually by the Library Association; and after discussion it was voted that it is the sense of the executive board that the membership feature be dropped from the constitution of the Publishing Section and that in the call for the next meeting of the section notice of the proposed change be given.

The treasurer was requested to make with the Library Bureau an agreement under which all work done for the Publishing Section by the bureau or through its agency should be charged at net cost to the bureau plus a commission of 10%, a statement of limit of cost being furnished on previous estimate.

Mr. Bowker was appointed a committee to confer with the superintendent of documents on the publication of a manual treating of the use of government publications.

Mr. Bowker submitted the suggestion of Miss Alice B. Kroeger, librarian of the Drexel Institute, for a manual of instruction in the use of

reference-books that could be used in schools and colleges. Miss Kroeger was invited to submit the manuscript with fuller information concerning her plan.

Adjourned.

The executive board met in Northampton at the Forbes Library, June 10, 1896; present, Messrs. Dewey, Fletcher, Bowker, and Lane.

*Voted.* To recommend to the Publishing Section at its next regular meeting that its present organization be discontinued and its constitution abolished, and that an amendment be proposed to the constitution of the A. L. A., namely: to insert a new section between §§ 15 and 16 substantially as follows:

"16. *Publishing Section.* The Publishing Section shall consist of five members appointed by the executive board for terms of not more than three years. Its object shall be to secure the preparation and publication of such catalogs, indexes, and other bibliographic and library aids as it may approve.

"The section shall annually appoint from its own number a chairman, secretary, and treasurer.

"No moneys shall be paid by the treasurer except with the written approval of three other members of the section, and no work shall be undertaken except by vote of a majority of the whole board.

"The section shall report in writing at each annual meeting of the A. L. A."

The treasurer reported on the sales of the "List of subject headings" and the "List of books for girls and women."

A letter from Mr. Iles was read stating that he expected to have the ms. of bibliographies of music and the other fine arts by Messrs. Krehbiel and Sturgis respectively ready to print in the fall. The preparation of these bibliographies Mr. Iles provides for at his own expense. The treasurer was instructed to obtain and submit to the board estimates of the expense of these publications in accordance with the vote at the last meeting.

The treasurer reported progress in the "Supplement to reading for the young," now all in type with the exception of the index, and the price of the book when published was decided upon.

The treasurer reported that he had been unable to make with the Library Bureau the arrangement in regard to estimates recommended at the last meeting, and it was the sense of the board that the treasurer should therefore in general obtain competitive estimates for work proposed.

The Massachusetts Library Club submitted its monthly fiction lists with a body of correspondence from subscribers and others in re-

\* It has been found in practice that very little advantage has been derived from the membership feature of the section as now organized, and that its accounts and management are complicated thereby. The work of the section is of equal interest to all members of the association and its board should be responsible to the association directly instead of to a limited and ill-defined portion of its members.

gard to their usefulness. The club asked whether the Publishing Section would undertake the publication of the lists in case it should itself be unable on account of expense to continue to publish them after the current year.

*Voted.* That the section will be willing to assume the publication of the Massachusetts fiction lists provided the club will undertake to prepare them — for at least another year; the price to Massachusetts libraries and to members of the Massachusetts Library Club to be 25 cents a year, and to all others 50 cents.

Mr. Dewey presented a synopsis and specimen of the handbook on reference-books proposed by Miss Kroeger, of Philadelphia. Discussion followed upon the scope and character that such a work should have, and it was voted that Miss Kroeger be asked to submit for the examination of the board an elementary textbook designed to teach the use of reference books.

Mr. Bowker reported informally on the material collected by Mr. Bunford Samuel, of Philadelphia, for an index of portraits, on which he had been at work for some years. The ms. was in good part ready for printing; it included about 40,000 portraits of about 22,000 individuals. Mr. Lane showed a sample of card prepared for co-operative indexing of portraits by Boston libraries, and at the suggestion of Mr. Bowker the subject was referred to Mr. Lane, who should examine Mr. Samuel's material and formulate a plan for preparing a portrait index for publication.

Mr. Lane reported that an index to architectural illustrations had been undertaken by the libraries of Boston and Cambridge working in co-operation, and that at some future time the material would probably be available for publication.

*Voted.* To authorize the treasurer to employ a bookkeeper or clerk at an expense not to exceed \$50 a year.

A communication was received from the Library Bureau of Boston stating that the bureau would be glad to turn over to the Publishing Section the responsibility of preparing the printed catalog cards for new books which for the last three years it has issued to subscribers. A number of letters from subscribers endorsing the plan and expressing opinions on the usefulness of the cards were also submitted.

The whole subject was discussed at length, but no final decision was reached.\*

W. C. LANE, *Secretary.*

\* Among the suggestions offered were the following: That the cataloging should be done at Albany or at the office of the *Publishers' Weekly*; that the number of subscribers might be increased by offering to send in place of the full list of books cataloged a selected list of perhaps one-third or one-fourth as many; that the expense of the work might be somewhat diminished by printing only one form of card for each book, leaving the library to fill in the necessary title or editor references; that the expense of preparation might be very much lessened by omitting the classification marks and dictionary-catalog headings, but the letters from subscribers seemed to show that this change would materially lessen the value of the cards.

## State Library Associations.

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA.

*President*: J. C. Rowell, Librarian University of California, Berkeley.

*Secretary*: A. M. Jellison, Librarian Mechanics' Library, San Francisco.

*Treasurer*: A. J. Cleary, Odd Fellows' Library, San Francisco.

THE regular meeting of the Library Association of Central California, held at the Mechanics' Institute, May 8, 1896, was a "Stanford evening." President Rowell presided, and after despatching the business of the meeting introduced Professor George Kriehn, of Leland Stanford Jr. University, who read a scholarly paper on "The library of the British Museum." He gave a brief sketch of the development of libraries, showing how the Arabians first destroyed and afterward built up and cherished great collections of books. "The lesson is self-evident; no nation capable of civilization can do without books and libraries. The great Semitic religions begin with the intention to destroy them; they end by being themselves led captive by the gentle art of learning." He dwelt on the period of the monastic libraries, describing the great collections of manuscripts in England. The dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. dispersed these collections all over the kingdom, and the greater part were lost or destroyed. "The library of the British Museum is essentially a modern institution, although most of its valuable manuscripts originally belonged to English monasteries, and yet with a single exception it has outstripped all of its older competitors." The nuclei of the British Museum were (1) the Sloane collection of 4000 mss. and 40,000 books, (2) the Cottonian collection, (3) the Harleian collection, (4) the Royal Library, founded by Henry VIII., (5) the copyright law. The method of selecting the trustees and governing the library was shown, and the riches of the collection of prints and drawings as well as prints and manuscripts were described at length. The building and its arrangement, especially the superb reading-room, was described in detail, and a tribute paid to Panizzi, "the greatest librarian the museum ever had." "What can we learn from the study of European libraries? The main object kept constantly in view by the British Museum is not so much to afford general information as to promote science and offer opportunities for original investigation. This is to my mind the grandest end of a library."

Mr. F. J. Teggart followed with a paper on "The literature of libraries — Bibliotheksseisen," in which he gave a comprehensive account of the bibliography of libraries in a bright, breezy style. He said, in conclusion: "The systematic avoiding of a concluding word on any of the minor details which have presented themselves for discussion seems to argue a fear on the part of librarians that were these elemen-

tary questions of administrative technique decided, there would be nothing left for librarians over which to disagree, or about which to write. It is time, I believe, that we left these internal affairs for a consideration of subjects of more vital importance to our various constituencies — the public at large."

The concluding paper was by Professor John M. Stillman, of Leland Stanford Jr. University, on "Some book corners of Boston." Professor Stillman deprecated talking on libraries to librarians, but gave an interesting and sympathetic account of the libraries of Boston, in which he showed more than a reader's knowledge and affection for the great collections in that city.

A. M. JELLISON, *Secretary*.

THE association has issued a pamphlet handbook, giving the constitution, list of officers, and record of meetings and topics discussed since its organization in February, 1895.

## COLORADO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President*: C. R. Dudley, City Library, Denver.

*Secretary*: John Parsons, Public Library, Denver.

*Treasurer*: A. E. Whitaker, State University Library, Boulder.

## CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President*: W. K. Stetson, Public Library, New Haven.

*Secretary*: Miss M. A. Richardson, Public Library, New London.

*Treasurer*: Mrs. F. W. Robinson, Otis Library, Norwich.

THE spring meeting of the Connecticut Library Association was held on May 30 in the Young Men's Institute, New Haven, with Professor D. N. Camp, of New Britain, the senior vice-president, in the chair. Joseph L. French, superintendent of schools of New Haven and president of the Young Men's Institute, welcomed the association. Miss Angelina Scott, of the South Norwalk Public Library, assistant secretary, read the report of the last meeting, and A. Maxcy Hiller invited the association to visit the New Haven Public Library. After some discussion a vote was passed that the meetings of the association should hereafter not be held on holidays.

William C. Stone, of the Springfield City Library, read a paper on the evolution of that library, which dates back to 1796, and was made free in 1885. Its circulation increased from 40,000 to 154,000 the first year, and it now employs a librarian and 10 regular assistants, besides several high-school boys, receives \$21,000 from the city and \$2800 from the dog tax, and spends \$9000 annually for salaries and \$7000 for books.

Miss Anna G. Rockwell, of the New Britain Institute, read a witty and entertaining paper on an unpromising subject — the classification of government documents — saying that the system of arrangement was often to keep

those bound in sheep together, probably for the reason that sheep are usually kept in flocks. She spoke of the crowded condition of the documents in the state library and in Trinity College, and urged the importance of preserving small government pamphlets on subjects like birds' eggs or the diseases of the horse for the benefit of the reader with a hobby (whom the librarian loves more than the ninety-and-nine who do not stray from the paths of fiction) instead of destroying them to get them out of the way, as the wife of a town-clerk did with the Revolutionary records of a town near Hartford. The Government Printing Office, she concluded, is the only publishing house in the country which does not print bad books to sell.

She was followed by Miss Adelaide R. Hasse, librarian of the office of the superintendent of documents, Washington, who gave statistics of that office, which has been established about a year, has sent out 100,000 volumes to libraries, and has 200,000 in stock, including from 1000 to 2000 copies of some documents and a model library of 15,000 volumes classified and collated. On account of the system of publishing government documents in series and by numbers Miss Hasse believes that they should be kept by themselves, but if a library does not attempt to make a complete collection sets may be broken up and classified under subjects. After her paper was read the association voted to send a resolution to Senator Hale urging the passage of the public document bill which has gone through the House and is now awaiting the Senate amendments.

Miss Tessa L. Kelso, formerly of Los Angeles, now of New York, spoke of the influence of a library, referring to a paper published in the May LIBRARY JOURNAL, by C. K. Bolton, on the duty of a librarian as a citizen, and saying that the librarian is in many cases responsible for lack of interest felt by library trustees and lack of funds voted by towns and cities, that western libraries are much more important in the life of cities than eastern ones, that sum voted for them in the East seem insignificant in the West, and that if the sum allotted every year for a public library is less than half the appropriation for schools, something must be wrong. The librarian who cannot at once state the hobbies of every man or woman in his town has not fulfilled his or her duty. A public library should be a place where class distinctions are forgotten and where workmen and employers can meet on the common ground of a common interest in picture exhibitions or other shows, as they cannot in any church.

At the afternoon session Mr. King, of C. Scribner's Sons, described the model libraries, with annotated catalogs, prepared for country towns by that house in connection with others, and Jonathan Trumbull, of the Otis Library, Norwich, read with comments a list of books on Connecticut history soon to be published in the bulletin of that library. Mr. Walter Learned, trustee of New London Public Library, read a paper on the line of exclusion in public libraries, urging that the ethical purport

of stories should be taken into consideration, giving Dickens as an instance of an author who, although as in the story of "David Copperfield" he touches on the illicit relation of a man and woman, and in all his books glorifies the use of intoxicants, has a high ethical aim and pure point of view. Fashions change and books go out of date. Nobody asks now for books which were condemned 40 years ago, but it is unwise to put into general circulation books of the same class when everybody is talking about them. Girls from 15 to 20 read more than boys of the same age, and care more for the modern hysterical novel. The books that Pomona reads do not injure her, but her mistress, who scorns Dickens's optimism and Thackeray's kindly cynicism as out of date, and George Eliot as didactic, reads a worse class of fiction than the maid. Mr. Learned's advice to librarians and trustees as to buying novels is, "When in doubt, don't."

Miss Helen Sperry, formerly of Waterbury, now librarian of the Carnegie Library, Bradford, Pa., gave an interesting account of that library and of the social conditions of the town. After a discussion on bookbuying, a vote of thanks to the Young Men's Institute, to which a graceful response was made by the librarian, Miss Williams, and a resolution of sympathy for the secretary in a recent bereavement, the meeting adjourned to accept an invitation to meet in Branford or South Norwalk in September. — *Hartford (Ct.) Courant*.

#### ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President*: Thomas Nelson, Public Library, East St. Louis, Ill.

*Secretary*: Miss E. L. Moore, Withers Public Library, Bloomington.

*Treasurer*: P. F. Bicknell, University of Illinois, Champaign.

#### INDIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President*: Rollin A. Kautz, Bowen-Merrill Co., Indianapolis.

*Secretary and Treasurer*: Miss M. E. Ahern, Library Bureau, 125 Franklin street, Chicago, Ill.

#### IOWA LIBRARY SOCIETY.

*President*: J. W. Rich, State University Library, Iowa City.

*Secretary*: Miss Ella McLoney, Public Library, Des Moines.

#### MAINE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President*: E. W. Hall, Colby University, Waterville.

*Secretary*: Miss H. C. Fernald, State College, Orono.

*Treasurer*: Prof. G. T. Little, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

#### MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

*President*: C. K. Bolton, Public Library, Brookline.

*Secretary*: W. H. Tillinghast, Harvard College Library, Cambridge.

*Treasurer:* Miss A. L. Sargent, Public Library, Medford.

ON Wednesday, June 12, 1896, the Massachusetts Library Club met, by invitation of Mr. C. A. Cutter, at Northampton. The day opened with pouring rain; 34 members, however, left Boston by the Central Massachusetts Railroad, and others dropped in along the way, so that a good-sized delegation was greeted by Mr. Cutter, and sat down, still further recruited, to a bountiful lunch in the parlors of the First Church.

The rain, having laid the dust and cooled the air, considerately betook itself elsewhere, and we walked without discomfort to the Forbes Library, that, standing in a broad lawn, welcomed us to its light and cheerful rooms, looking out upon Mt. Holyoke. Here Miss Nina E. Browne, librarian of the Library Bureau, explained her charging system with practical illustrations from the apparatus there in use, and answered many questions as to its capabilities. The Rudolph book catalog, the modified accession books, the books exposed for consultation, were also examined with interest. The party then returned to the First Church—and the secretary must here apologize to the club and its guests for this unnecessary, reduplicated walk, resulting from his lamentable ignorance of Northampton geography—where the meeting was called to order by Mr. Bolton at 3:35 p.m. About 115 were present.

Mr. Gardner M. Jones, chairman of the committee in charge of the Lists of Select Fiction, submitted the result of his inquiries into the usefulness of the lists. About 63 replies were received; four libraries based their purchases in this department of literature entirely on the lists, 37 did so in part, and 14, chiefly large libraries, did not, though nine made use of them in other ways; five found them useless. Titles appear in the lists from four to six weeks after the books are published, and 31 out of 43 libraries found this early enough to be of use. One librarian wrote that the list was of much use in enabling him to get books by new authors which he would otherwise have missed. Mr. Jones remarked that an index which he has kept of reviews of novels shows that a surprising number of novels fail to obtain mention in the most widely read literary journals. About 600 copies of the lists are sent out, one being sent free to every public library in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and 157 on subscription of 25 c. for 12 numbers.

After reading the report Mr. Jones suggested that some action was necessary as to the continuance of the lists after the issue of the first 12 numbers. The cost of these numbers has been paid in part from subscriptions, in part from gifts, but mainly from the surplus of the club. It could not continue to support the lists out of its income.

Mr. Lane remarked that there were three methods, at least, of continuing the lists, should the club think it desirable to continue them beyond 12 numbers: By subscription for each copy sent at a sufficient price; by publish-

ing the lists, not independently, but in literary and library journals; by turning over the publication and distribution to the Publishing Section—if the section should be willing to undertake it—the club paying only for the compilation. He moved to refer the matter of continuing the lists beyond 12 numbers to a committee consisting of the executive committee and the chairman and secretary of the fiction lists committee with full power to take such action as seemed to them wise. It was so voted.

The regular business was then interrupted in order that the club might listen to an account of the Home Culture Libraries by Mr. George W. Cable.

Mr. Cable said that these libraries were still in the experimental stage. The Home Culture Clubs will soon celebrate their tenth anniversary. The further they are from the centre the more they need help, as they cannot afford to buy the books recommended and are often remote from libraries. Last summer the monthly reports sent to each club by the general secretary were expanded into a magazine called *The Letter*, issued for an annual subscription and serving as a means of directing the clubs to good and systematized reading. "It was a pleasant experience to prove that the most uninformed people have a strong tendency to systematized reading. We at once found it an advantage to become lenders of books, choosing books of low price and light weight. We pay the postage to the first club, which must pay the postage to the next club, the last paying the postage to the general secretary. The annual subscriptions (50 c.) to *The Letter* help us to bear the expense; it is not a profitable scheme, but it reaches homes absolutely destitute of books and trains the members in systematic reading." It has been in operation about two months; there are about a dozen clubs and two or three times that number of books out.

Several members accepted Mr. Cable's invitation to visit the Home Culture Library, and became deeply interested in the details of the work.

Mr. F. W. Faxon presented a report from the committee appointed at the last meeting to investigate the feasibility of having a club-room in Boston, whereby it appeared that to hire an eligible room was entirely beyond the means of the club, and the only chance lay in making arrangements with some other club for joint use of a room. This was presented as a report of progress, and, no action being taken, the matter went over until the next meeting.

The president called attention to the desire of the Public Library at Wendell to obtain duplicates not wanted at other libraries. Mr. Smith, a trustee of the library, said that it had received state aid, but was still very small, and the town was able to supply but little money for the purchase of new books. They would be glad to receive duplicates, either as gifts or loans, and would pay expressage.

The club had already received a cordial invitation from Miss Hewins to visit Hartford on

Thursday morning. A like invitation was now offered by Mr. Fletcher on behalf of Amherst, and by Mr. Rice on behalf of Springfield.

The president announced that a representative from Charles Scribner's Sons was present and would be glad to meet any one who was interested in the model libraries which that house is putting on the market.

The subject for the day, "Co-operation among neighboring libraries in the acquisition and use of books," was then taken up.

Mr. Lane said that co-operation was possible either between two libraries equally public and free, or between a free public and a proprietary library. In the former case, which was exemplified in Northampton, in Chicago, and in New York, the matter was comparatively simple. Obviously the libraries should divide the ground between them and each select its own line for the purchase of books. In New York the problem had been solved by actual union under one governing board. In Chicago steps were being taken toward co-operation in growth and a division of the field of knowledge and of art. The second case, that of a free and a proprietary library, was more difficult, though even here a good deal of co-operation was practicable. The question would come up in the proprietary library, Are we willing to give equal freedom to the users of the public library? Such liberty of use will commonly be restricted in the semi-public library to certain classes of books where it will not interfere with the rights of members; these will be books on subjects of limited interest, or rare and costly books used by scholars only. Such provisions are made in Boston, Hartford, Providence, and many other places. In any case there will be large classes of books which each library must have. Mr. Lane read extracts from Mr. Putnam's recent report bearing on methods of co-operation between such libraries. At the Athenaeum, when the purchase of an expensive or unusual book is contemplated, a return postal-card is sent to each of the principal libraries in the vicinity, asking whether the library owns the book already or intends to buy it. Decision is then based on the replies. Similarly, when a work of this character is acquired a notification in like form is sent to these libraries. Such forms will probably be adopted at the Boston Public Library, and have been adopted at Harvard College Library.\*

As to smaller libraries in neighboring towns, Why, Mr. Lane asked, is it not possible for four or five libraries to buy a certain number of books as joint property to be transferred from one to another once in two months or so? If there are legal obstacles to holding the books in common, each might own one-fourth or one-fifth of the books, with the understanding that they were to be exchanged.

The loaning of books among libraries is common, and is perhaps sometimes carried too far.

We must not, in our generosity, forget the rights of our own readers and of posterity. Though little or no loss may result from such loans the wear and tear must be taken into account.

The president then called upon Mr. Dewey, who was warmly welcomed, and described the step just taken by New York state toward a campaign to inspire an appetite for good books, by the appointment of Mr. Richard Jones, of Swarthmore College, as literature inspector, to work through public libraries, study clubs, and the 640 schools and academies under the charge of the regents of the university, with intent to make New York read more good books than any other place in the world. Mr. Dewey then told of the library for the blind maintained by the state and loaned to any blind person who asked for books, and of the lending of pictures and lantern slides and large framed pictures to hang in school-rooms.

Mr. Bowker said it was a pleasant feeling that a member of one library association is a member of all, welcome to any meeting held where he may chance to be—which exemplified the spirit of co-operation. He described the condition in Brooklyn, where the Historical Society, the Brooklyn Library, the Brooklyn Institute, and the Pratt Institute found the lines of demarcation naturally drawn, and where it is hoped to show how the rarer books can be most economically placed at the service of the public.

Mr. Fletcher thought the proprietary libraries were generous in intention and aimed to promote scholarship and the public good. He instanced the libraries of Northampton, Amherst, and vicinity as a good field for co-operation. There was need of a library council representing these towns and Springfield and Holyoke, meeting two or three times a year. The result had been attained long ago in Hartford, where under the Watkinson will the trustees of the Watkinson Library included *ex-officio* the governor, the president of the Historical Society, the president of the Young Men's Institute (now the Public Library), and Trinity College. The co-operation or co-production of small libraries is a fruitful topic. In Massachusetts the feeling of local independence has prevented the state from being entrusted with the powers it has in New York. If this feeling cannot be overcome the libraries must themselves combine.

Mr. Soule thought that in the interests of the smaller libraries we ought to know definitely: How far these libraries are at liberty to send readers to metropolitan libraries; how far they may call on larger libraries for loans. Let the confederated libraries issue a circular stating just how far they will admit visitors and loan books. We need, above all, an effective central organization. The original purpose for which the Library Commission was created is nearly carried out; it is now time to widen the scope of the commission and make it an effective aid to established libraries. If this is not done we shall soon be far in the rear in the library movement.

\* At least so far as the inquiry cards are concerned. The return part of the card is so printed that when it is received filled out with the statement that the Athenaeum has (or will soon buy) such and such a book, it can be cut down and filed in the official catalogue. — W. H. T.

Mr. Foster said that the three libraries in Providence keep informed as to their respective purchases of books, and maintain a co-operative list of periodicals taken by each and by certain other libraries, such as that of the Naval School and the Torpedo Station and Agricultural Station. In the revision of the by-laws of the Providence Athenaeum special attention has been paid to helping other libraries, and the librarian of Brown University and the librarian of the Public Library have been made *ex-officio* shareholders in the Athenaeum, and can send for books in their own names.

In concluding Mr. Foster moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Cutter for his kindness in providing the opportunity for this exceptionally delightful session, and it was unanimously adopted.

The meeting then adjourned, but the company gathered at the Forbes Library in the evening and conversed on library topics and some others, while examining an exhibition of photographs and engravings.

Among the guests not already mentioned were Miss Kelso, from New York, Miss Richardson, secretary of the Connecticut Library Association, and Miss Sanborn, of Manchester, N. H. Dr. Billings, who had hoped to be present, was unfortunately prevented by a trustees' meeting in New York. President Seelye favored us with a call in the evening.

About 40 members and guests spent the night in Northampton, the Norwood being headquarters. How many in the morning visited Springfield and Hartford the secretary cannot at this writing state, but fears that Mt. Tom, Mt. Holyoke, and Amherst in combination may have worked harm to the hopes of our friends in the south. There are rumors of an ascent of Mt. Tom before breakfast and a visit to Williamsburg at the same charming but unpractical hour. It is certain, however, that a party of 20 spent two hours at Amherst learning much of library methods and carrying away memories of beauty of hills and plain that will blend with memories of Northampton to make life less commonplace for many a day.

W. H. TILLINGHAST, *Secretary.*

#### MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President:* H. M. Utley, Public Library, Detroit.

*Secretary:* Mrs. A. F. Parsons, Public Library, Bay City.

*Treasurer:* Miss Lucy Ball, Public Library, Grand Rapids.

#### MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President:* Dr. W. W. Folwell, State University, Minneapolis.

*Secretary and Treasurer:* Miss Gratia Countryman, Public Library, Minneapolis.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President:* W. W. Bailey, Nashua.

*Corresponding Secretary:* Miss Grace Blanchard, Public Library, Concord.

*Librarian and Treasurer:* Miss A. M. Colby, Public Library, Concord.

#### NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President:* Miss Cornelia A. See, Public Library, New Brunswick.

*Secretary:* Miss Beatrice Winser, Public Library, Newark.

*Treasurer:* Miss Emma L. Adams, Public Library, Plainfield.

The New Jersey Library Association held a special meeting at the Princeton University Library May 20, 1896.

President Patton cordially welcomed the association, and in an inspiring address dwelt upon the importance of a librarian's work. He considered the librarian one of the most important factors in university life, as without him the student would merely have a text-book knowledge and would fail to receive that liberal education which the proper use of books alone can give.

The committee on legislation reported that the library commission bill was vetoed by the governor owing to the fact that the clause appropriating \$100 to the aid of new libraries had been eliminated, and thus the usefulness of the measure had been defeated. The committee recommended that the association renew its efforts to have the bill passed, as it was originally drafted, at the next session of the legislature.

Miss Burdick, acting librarian at Jersey City, read an instructive paper on the work of her library and the public schools of the city, showing that teachers and scholars alike appreciate the advantages of a free public library.

Newark just now is much exercised over the possible removal from that city of the New Jersey Historical Society. Mr. William R. Weeks read a timely paper upon "The future of the New Jersey Historical Society," in which he reviewed in detail the munificent offer of Princeton University to give the society a permanent home in the new University Library, where its treasures might find a place free from vandal hands, dust, and the destructive mouse. The picture he drew of the society under these new conditions was alluring, but the consensus of opinion was that the library ought to stay in Newark as the representative city of the state, and that citizens ought to exhibit enough public spirit to put the society on its feet once more.

Professor Ernest C. Richardson, in an interesting paper upon "The duties of libraries toward local history," sketched briefly the importance of every library's collecting historical data relating to the early history of a place in which it is situated.

More than 30 representatives of New Jersey libraries were present at the meeting, and among the guests were Dr. Wire, of Chicago, and Mr. Baker, of Columbia University.

After luncheon at Prof. Richardson's house the afternoon was devoted to the inspection of the beautiful university buildings and grounds.

BEATRICE WINSER, *Secretary.*

## NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President*: J. N. Larned, Buffalo Library, Buffalo.

*Secretary*: W. R. Eastman, State Library, Albany.

*Treasurer*: J. N. Wing, Chas. Scribner's Sons, 153 Fifth avenue, New York City.

THE New York Library Association held a two days' session at Syracuse on Friday and Saturday, May 29-30. The registered attendance was 46, but on Friday evening there were at least 100 in the audience. The meetings were held in the hall of the Women's Industrial Union, on Montgomery st., a few doors from the Central Library.

The first meeting was on Friday afternoon. In the unavoidable absence of Hon. J. K. McGuire, mayor of Syracuse, librarian E. W. Mundy extended a cordial welcome to the association. J. N. Larned, of Buffalo, the president, on taking the chair, gave an address in which he sketched the origin, growth, and meaning of the free public library movement. He pointed to the fact that, while Massachusetts led the way and New York was slow in awakening, our own state is now rapidly assuming her true rank of leadership by the energy and magnitude of her library work. The free town library is wholly a product of the last half century. It is the crowning creation of democracy for its own higher culture. "The true literature that we garner in our libraries is the deathless thought, the immortal truth, the imperishable quickenings and revelations which genius has been frugally, steadily planting in the fertile soil of written speech from the beginning. As I look at it, there is nothing save the air we breathe that we have common rights in so sacred and so dear, and there is no other public treasure which so reasonably demands to be kept and cared for and distributed for common enjoyment at common cost."

W. R. Eastman, the secretary, read a paper on "The library situation in Central New York," dealing principally with the statistics of 166 libraries in 14 central counties, naming the incorporated villages in each county, and showing that almost all, except those of very small population, were provided with libraries of some sort. But when we look for the towns we find that 130 out of 241 towns in the district report no library. It was afterward suggested that many of them might have Sunday-school libraries. The counties of Herkimer, Oneida, and Onondaga are specially prominent in the advance of the past few years. He called attention to the opportunity and need for farther advance along three lines:

1. To put more money and effort into existing institutions, and make many more subscription libraries free.

2. Where school libraries contain material suited to general circulation to place that part of them under independent management.

3. To found libraries in small towns and school districts wherever there are people enough to require a post-office.

B. G. Clapp, of Fulton, told a very inter-

esting story of the successful attempt to establish a public library in that village, by arousing interest in the minds of influential persons by individual suggestion and appeal and using existing resources as a nucleus for the new enterprise.

Fred Van Dusen, of Ogdensburg, in a paper on "A library association or a public library?" gave an account of the movement in that city which resulted in the formation of a library by transfer of the school libraries and the acquisition of a most elegant and desirable property for their library building. There was an association of 150 members behind the undertaking, whose annual contributions were added to the public funds; but this could not have been formed and maintained with the narrow aim of supplying reading to the members alone. With regard to the library tax he said: "It may be set down as a moral certainty, that no more loyal supporters of worthy public institutions can be found than the smaller taxpayers, the common people, if they be treated with any proper degree of consideration." "The sense of ownership begets interest." "If a library be restricted to the use of members of an association, the highest aim of a library is defeated."

J. E. Brandegee, of Utica, and A. L. Peck, of Gloversville, told of the work of establishing libraries in their respective cities. They testified to the growing popular interest and greater ease with which municipal aid could be secured.

At six o'clock the association were made guests of the Syracuse Central Library, and seated at tables bountifully spread in the parlors adjoining the hall. Two pleasant hours of social enjoyment prepared the way for the intellectual feast of the evening.

At eight o'clock the members assembled again in the hall, where Prof. W. G. Ward, of the department of literature in Syracuse University, spoke on "Reading as a factor in education." "Formerly," he said, "literature was studied by critical opinions, but now the books themselves must be mastered." "Instruction may be as scientific as you please; it amounts to nothing without wide reading." "The novel is exerting the widest influence to-day; a man must read novels to be wise in character." "Gibbon said, 'I read for suggestion; when an idea is suggested I quit reading and pursue the idea.'" "To be inspired for work, read Browning or some other favorite author. One will say, 'Holmes is the first man to get me awake; after reading him I can go to work with a glow.'" "Lowell said, 'The way to read is to read what you like to read; before you're done you will like something else. But be sure it is worth reading—worthy—then like with all your heart.'" "Learning is often assimilated by the thread furnished by the life of a man. It is the same with history. The ancient world comes in to a great man and the modern world grows out of him." The address was instructive, stimulating, and delightful throughout.

In the discussion which followed valuable

suggestions were made by Fred Van Dusen, G. F. Bowerman, J. E. Brandegee, Mrs. Dowling, L. O. Wiswell, J. N. Larned, A. L. Peck, Miss E. L. Foote, Rev. Jas. A. Skinner, and Miss Irene Earle. Supt. W. D. Mauro, of Rome, contributed an admirable paper on "Ways of advertising library." It was expected that the evening session would be closed by an address from Melvil Dewey, director of the State Library, but press of business at Albany compelled him to disappoint the meeting.

The session of Saturday morning was opened with a paper from A. L. Peck, of Gloversville, on "The opportunity of the librarian to influence the reading of the community," a subject of common interest, which was treated with rare skill and abundantly illustrated out of the speaker's long and successful experience in school and library.

Miss Anna R. Phelps, of Utica, speaking of "A library in a rural community," greatly interested the meeting in her account of the establishment and work of a public library kept in a small school-house at Glen Haven, at the head of Skaneateles Lake, in the neighborhood of a summer hotel, whose guests interested themselves in the enterprise. She expressed the hope that the recent establishment of Arbor day might prove to be a prophecy of Library day as a national holiday set apart to the humanities.

The closing exercise, in charge of Miss Mary S. Cutler, of the Library School at Albany, was an examination of the librarians' vote recently taken to determine the best 50 books of 1895 for the purposes of a village library. Charts were prepared to enable the meeting to follow the comparisons made. Many desirable changes and additions to the list were proposed and discussed by those present, and, with their full agreement, a revised list was made which differs in many particulars from that previously published. (See p. 274.)

W. R. EASTMAN, *Secretary.*

#### NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President:* D. A. Campbell, State Library, Lincoln.

*Secretary:* Miss Mary Jones, State University, Lincoln.

*Treasurer:* Miss Carrie C. Dennis, Public Library, Lincoln.

#### OHIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President:* W. H. Brett, Public Library, Cleveland.

*Secretary:* Miss Alice Boardman, State Library, Columbus.

*Treasurer:* Charles Orr, Case Library, Cleveland.

#### PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY CLUB.

*President:* Jos. G. Rosengarten, Free Library, Philadelphia.

*Secretary:* C. S. Kates, Free Library, Branch 5, West Phila., Phila.

*Treasurer:* Mrs. M. A. Resag, Institute Free Library, Wilmington, Del.

THE following is the full list of the officers of

the club elected at the February meeting and not recorded in previous reports:

President, Joseph G. Rosengarten, ex-officio trustee of the Free Library; Vice-presidents, E. H. Anderson, Carnegie Library, Pittsburg; T. L. Montgomery, Wagner Free Institute, Philadelphia; Executive committee, John Thomson, Free Library of Philadelphia; Alfred Rigling, Franklin Institute; Miss Alice Kroeger, Drexel Institute; Miss Jennie V. Midleton, Apprentices' Library; Mrs. Mary A. Fell, City Institute, Philadelphia; George P. Rupp, Girard College; Robert P. Bliss, Bucknell Library, Chester; Secretary, Clarence Sears Kates, Philadelphia; Treasurer, Mrs. M. A. Resag, Wilmington Institute Library, Wilmington, Del.

The last two meetings of the club have been very successful.

At the meeting held April 13 the president, Mr. Rosengarten, spoke at some length on the connection between a librarian's duties towards his library and towards the community at large. His remarks raised quite a discussion, and formed a capital adjunct to a paper read by Mr. Charles Knowles Bolton, of the Brookline (Mass.) Public Library, on "The librarian's duty as a citizen," which was the principal topic of the evening. This paper appeared in the May number of the JOURNAL. At the close of Mr. Bolton's address the members of the club examined the new cataloging department and the bindery of the Free Library, and spent a pleasant hour in social gossip, enlivened by a light supper served in the cataloging-room.

The most important meeting of the season was held at Pittsburg on May 11. Generous arrangements were made by the board of trustees of the Philadelphia Free Library as to the attendance of assistants. Most of the officers of the club, accompanied by over 30 of the assistants of the Free Library, Apprentices' Library, and the City Institute, were enabled to visit the three Carnegie libraries of Pittsburg, Allegheny, and Braddock. The party left Philadelphia in a special car provided by the Pennsylvania R. R. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Stevenson, accompanied by several ladies, received the club on Saturday night, and a very enjoyable Sunday was spent in visiting the churches and parks of Pittsburg. On Monday morning the club visited the Pittsburg Carnegie Library, and Mr. Archer, the organist of the institution, gave a delightful organ recital. In the afternoon Mr. Stevenson and some of the trustees received the club at the Allegheny Carnegie Library, after which the visiting members were taken in several four-in-hands for a capital spin to Schenley Park, in the neighborhood. On Tuesday they visited the Braddock Library, where they were received by Miss Sperry, the librarian, and some of the residents, and where they completed a most interesting examination of the library systems pursued in these three neighboring institutions. Several of the chief officials of the Edgar Thomson Steel Co. invited the club to close the day by a visit to the works, and escorted them around.

Two business meetings were held on Monday afternoon and Monday evening. At the first session the principal subject was the travelling libraries system as just adopted for Pennsylvania. (See p. 277.) At the request of Mr. Anderson, the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Thomson, of the Philadelphia Free Library, gave a rather full account of the objects and methods of the system adopted by the new organization. A discussion followed, which was joined in by many of the members, and the Pittsburgh librarians promised cordial co-operation in the development of this important work. In the evening an admirable paper was delivered by Mr. William H. Brett, of the Cleveland Public Library, on "The development of a librarian." This is the concluding address of a series of papers he has been recently delivering on this interesting subject, and it will shortly be printed as one of the *Occasional Papers* of the Pennsylvania Library Club.

#### VERMONT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President*: Miss S. C. Hagar, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington.

*Secretary*: Miss M. L. Titcomb, Free Library, Rutland.

*Treasurer*: E. F. Holbrook, Proctor.

#### WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*President*: F. A. Hutchins, Baraboo.

*Secretary and Treasurer*: Miss L. E. Stearns, Public Library, Milwaukee.

### Library Clubs.

#### CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB.

*President*: Anderson H. Hopkins, John Crerar Library.

*Secretary*: Miss May L. Bennett, Armour Institute.

*Treasurer*: W. W. Bishop, Garrett Biblical Institute.

#### MILWAUKEE LIBRARY ROUND TABLE.

"A little work, a little play  
To keep us going—and so good-day!"

This is the motto of the Milwaukee Library Round Table, a club formed for the benefit of all the library force, but especially for those assistants who are prevented by stress of purse or distance from attending the state and national library conventions. The club has no constitution, no officers, no dues, no formality; its object being simply recreation and inspiration.

Its meetings were auspiciously opened by a dinner, tendered by the librarian, Miss West, on March 7, 1895, followed by an interesting program. A paper by Miss Sharp on "Library school and training classes," aroused much interest.

The second meeting was held April 24, 1895. After luncheon, an illustrated talk was given by Miss West on "Library architecture."

At the May meeting Miss Van Valkenburgh spoke on "Catalogs and cataloging." In June an electric launch was chartered for an evening on the river. The latter part of June the

Round Table had the pleasure of entertaining the Armour Institute faculty and training class, who came by boat from Chicago for the day.

The next meeting was purely social, under the guise of an old-fashioned "candy-pull."

During the summer months the meetings were suspended; being resumed by a talk by Mr. Hutchins, chairman of the Wisconsin Library Commission, on "Travelling libraries."

The membership at the present time is necessarily limited to the members of the library staff, owing to the lack of accommodation and the technical nature of the discussions; but it is hoped, with the advent of the new building, to make the meetings of more general interest to the public by introducing special literary features.

The benefits of such a club are inestimable. There is the pleasure of the social hour of intimate association for those whose days are crowded with a multiplicity of duties. The papers presented and the discussions lead to new opinions and enthusiasms.

If the Round Table has a creed, it may be expressed in no better way than in the words of Phillips Brooks: "Joy or delight in what you are doing is a help for the more perfect doing of your work. Try just as far as possible to find the pleasure of your life in the work to which it has been settled that your life must be given. Study its principles. Let your interest dwell on its details. Make it delightful by the affections which cluster around it, by the help which you are able through it to give to other people, by the education which your own faculties are getting out of it. In all these ways make your business the centre and fountain of your joy and then life will be healthy and strong."

L. E. STEARNS.

#### NEW YORK LIBRARY CLUB.

*President*: Miss M. W. Plummer, Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn.

*Secretary*: Miss J. A. Rathbone, Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn.

*Treasurer*: Miss Elizabeth Tuttle, Long Island Historical Society, Brooklyn.

THE annual meeting of the New York Library Club was held on May 14, in the hall of the Young Women's Christian Association, East 15th street. The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr. Stevens, who at once appointed a nominating committee consisting of Mr. Baker, Miss Cattell, and Miss Prescott.

The treasurer's report was read, showing a balance in the treasury of \$92.71.

Mr. S. H. Berry and Mr. C. A. Nelson were appointed as auditing committee. Mrs. Mary E. Craigie, the president of the Brooklyn Library Association, was elected a member of the club.

Mr. Stevens called the attention of the club to the meeting of the state association at Syracuse, and to the Cleveland meeting of the A. L. A., urging the attendance of the members of the club upon both meetings.

The subject for the afternoon was a history of the organization and work of the club from

its beginning. It was thought fitting at the close of the 10th year of the life of the club to take a little time for retrospection. Mr. Nelson, who has been a member of the club almost from the beginning, read a paper in which he described the organization of the club, June 18, 1885, in the old library at Columbia College, with 12 charter members, the first meeting in November, also at Columbia, and subsequent meetings down to date, giving the place of meeting and the program of subjects discussed. At the close of the paper many members present testified to the help and inspiration the club had been to them.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Miss Mary W. Plummer, Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn; Vice-presidents, Arthur E. Bostwick, N. Y. Free Circulating Library, W. J. C. Berry, librarian Law Institute, New York; Secretary, Miss Josephine A. Rathbone, Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn; Treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Tuttle, Long Island Hist. Soc. Library, Brooklyn.

JOSEPHINE A. RATHBONE, *Secretary.*

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITY.

*President:* Dr. Cyrus Adler, Smithsonian Institution.

*Secretary and Treasurer:* F. H. Parsons, U. S. Naval Observatory.

THE 16th regular meeting of the Library Association of Washington City was held at the Columbian University on May 27, 1896, Dr. Cyrus Adler presiding.

Miss Irene Gibson and Miss Florence P. Chase, both employed in the office of the superintendent of public documents, were elected to membership.

A motion was carried to subscribe for a copy of the current number of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, to be placed in the Free Public Library for convenience of all.

This being the last meeting of the association for the season, attention was called to the September conference of the A. L. A., and every one was urged to make an effort to report in Cleveland, and share in the good things that will be ready for all.

Mr. Henderson Presnell, librarian of the U. S. Bureau of Education, then read a paper entitled "Library legislation," which, it is hoped, may be printed, as it contained a *résumé* of the legislation which affects libraries in each state and territory, and is a very valuable compendium for reference. He showed the small beginnings with school libraries, their development into district, then township, and finally into the free public libraries, which are supported by general taxation. He stated that the growth of the library movement since 1890 has been phenomenal, and one upon which this country may be congratulated.

The topic for general discussion was "Departmental or sectional libraries," and the association heard with interest the experiences of Prof. John Martin Vincent, librarian of the Historical Seminary of Johns Hopkins University,

Baltimore; Mr. W. P. Cutter, librarian of the Department of Agriculture; Mr. N. P. Scudder, of the Smithsonian and National Museum library, and Capt. H. L. Prince, librarian U. S. Patent Office. The constituency of these libraries being very different, as were the points of view of the speakers, it seemed to be impossible to arrive at any hard and fast rules for the government of such libraries; yet apparently one was admitted by all, viz.: "When you have only a single copy of a book that is claimed by more than one section, keep it in the central library."

Adjourned until October, 1896.

F. H. PARSONS, *Secretary.*

Reviews.

SCOTT, Temple. *Book sales of 1895: a record of the most important books sold at auction, and the prices realized, with introduction, notes, and index.* London, P. Cockram, 1896. 10 + 443 p. sq. O.

The necessity for two publications covering the same ground is not obvious unless the object of the second be to reduce the cost of the information given to would-be purchasers. The yearly issues of "Book-prices current" have been almost beyond the purses of ordinary libraries, and others with means have hesitated about investing, by reason of the cost. Mr. Scott's book is published at a lower price and its make-up is excellent; the large, broad page and the selection of type, small but very clear, with catchwords in black-face type, make consultation quick and easy. Of course the personal equation of the compiler governs largely the selection of titles of books; not all classes of buyers can expect their preferences to be included, and opinions must differ as to books excluded from such price-lists. Mr. Scott's introduction is entertaining, and he claims "no special merit for this book other than may be found in the notes and in the comprehensive index."

The issue for 1896 will be issued in quarterly parts, thus keeping purchasers in much closer touch with the sales. Henry Stevens, Son & Stiles are the agents for this country. As a key to the present values of books thrown on the market at the English auction sales the book is of great value.

C. A. N.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, New York. A collection of books for young people. 300 volumes. 28 p. D.

— Catalogue of a model library. 500 volumes. 32 p. D.

— Catalogue of a model library. 1000 volumes. 48 p. D.

It is not usual to notice sales catalogs in these columns, but the rather novel circumstances under which these lists are issued may serve as sufficient reason for an exception. These catalogs, it is explained in an accom-

panying circular, are the outcome of a "new library plan" which consists, briefly, in supplying to libraries three collections, one "a library complete in itself, consisting of 1000 volumes, another of 500, and a juvenile library of 300 books, all of which have been examined and approved by the library authorities of several states." The 1000-v. collection is an extension of the 500-v. library, the children's list being quite separate. The books, it is said, "have been selected by experts with experience in the every-day needs of small libraries," from such lists as those of the state boards of education and the A. L. A. catalog. They are supplied at the rates of \$1000 net for the 1000-volume collection, which is listed at \$1521, \$500 for the 500 volumes, and \$300 for the juvenile collection. With each library the publishers will supply 1000 copies of the catalog, specially printed with the name and rules of the library, and any other material desired. A brief statement of the ways in which money may be obtained for library purposes, from the state, by subscription, by entertainments, etc., is also given in the circular, which offers to the librarian of a small town the enticing prospect of library and catalog secured ready-made.

The catalogs are attractive little pamphlets, neatly printed and bound in paper covers. They are classed lists, with author entries only, nearly every entry having excellent short annotations. The children's list is illustrated with many good portraits of writers represented.

The question that naturally arises in regard to such lists as this is whether the principle of "proportional representation" has been observed in selection, or whether there is an undue inclusion of the publishers' own publications. These catalogs include many books issued by other houses, and at first sight seem to be remarkably free from such one-sidedness, but closer examination shows that a goodly majority of the books bear the Scribner imprint. The lists are well made and interesting, though only partially representative of the best books for a small library. The inclusion of the 18 volumes of *Scribner's Magazine* among "Works of reference," the listing of Bryant's "History of the United States" as the only history of the United States, the inclusion of Holland and Eugene Field among American poets to the exclusion of Lowell, Poe, or Stedman, and the listing of such series as "Stories by American authors," "Stories by English authors," "Illustrated library of wonders," "Epochs of history," "Campaigns of the Civil War," "Great writers," etc., show that the personal equation is not wholly absent. Probably this would be too much to expect.

Messrs. Scribner have shown commendable enterprise in this development of the library field, and their scheme, which is under the energetic charge of Miss T. L. Kelso, will undoubtedly be most helpful to many libraries, especially in small towns. The plan itself, and the large way in which it has been taken up, are interesting evidence of the increasing importance of libraries in the commercial world.

## Library Economy and History.

### GENERAL.

IN *Nature*, May 7, 1896, Mr. John J. Ogle, librarian of the Free Public Library of Bootle, offers a suggestion that is of interest to American as well as English librarians. He urges that the new education bill, now before Parliament, be amended so that "all institutions in England and Wales supported out of a rate raised under the Public Libraries Acts or the Museums and Gymnasiums Act, should be put under the management and control of the same local authority as may be appointed for elementary, technical, and secondary education." The object is to unify the management of educational institutions in the community. In the *Library* (7:129) Mr. Ogle has a paper on the same general subject.

### LOCAL.

*Atlanta (Ga.) Young Men's L. A.* (29th rpt. — year ending April 30, '96) Added 514; total 16,832; circulation 16,045.

"Owing to local causes (the International exposition) the circulation was not so great as the year previous, but for the number of visitors and students using books in the reading-rooms, the past year has exceeded all others in the library's life and gives promise of what is to be expected during the coming year.

"The library is greatly indebted to Mr. R. R. Bowker, of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, for two volumes of the 'American Catalogue,' which he presents to the library in recognition of the services of its librarian, Miss Anne Wallace, in organizing the library conference of November 29-30, 1895, held at Atlanta.

"The library conference held in Atlanta, Nov. 29 and 30, 1895, was the first of the kind held in the South, and the papers read before this conference have been compiled and issued by the bureau of education as circulars of information. The American Library Association was represented at the meeting, and some steps were taken to bring the national organization to Atlanta in 1898. It is to be hoped that the matter will receive the support of all interested in library growth in the South, as this gathering of the leading librarians of the United States at Atlanta would do much to advance library interests. If it were possible to have represented every library of the South from the best endowed institutions of the country to the poorest struggling library of the little towns, and give them the benefit of the knowledge and experience of the well-equipped modern libraries, it would do more to revolutionize library work in the South and to overcome the present sluggishness in library circles than all the printed matter ever written upon the subject.

"In the meantime—that is, prior to bringing the American Library Association to Atlanta in 1898—the Young Men's Library should undergo a thorough overhauling in the matter of classification, a card catalog should be instituted, and a new book-room equipped with new steel stacks, electric lights, and every conven-

ience necessary to make our library an object lesson in utility and beauty for the smaller libraries of the state and of the South."

*Boston P. L. GEMS OF THE BARTON LIBRARY.*  
Foremost special collection in Boston's P. L. (In *Boston Herald*, May 24.) 2 $\frac{2}{3}$  col.

*Boston P. L.* (44th rpt. — year ending Jan. 31, '96.) Added 30,611, of which 15,582 were gifts; total 628,297, of which 158,423 are in the branches. Issued, home use \$47,321, of which 567,827 were issued through the nine branches and 13 delivery stations. No. card-holders 34,842, as against 29,971 on Jan. 1, 1895. Receipts \$250,057.58; expenses \$219,416.39.

This report, which is really a detailed history of the library since its removal to the new building in March, 1895, is so full of interest and value that adequate quotation within necessary limits is impracticable, and we therefore recommend it in its entirety to the careful perusal of librarians. The trustees' report is a summarized statement of the main facts of the year, and is followed by the remarkably full and interesting report of Mr. Putnam, the suggestive report of the examining committee, with correspondence as to interchange and co-operation with other libraries in Boston and its vicinity, and appendixes covering the financial status of the library, accessions, classification, registration, circulation, work of branches and delivery stations, full schedule of library service, rules as to employment, with graded salary list, application blank and specimen examination papers, by-laws, list of newspapers in the newspaper reading-room, covering journals of most of the countries of the world, from Alaska to Cape Colony, correspondence as to gifts, and the usual list of donations.

During the year 52,744 v. were catalogued, and 92,993 cards placed in the card catalog, the composition of the catalog cards being done by the linotype. 9898 v. were bound in the library bindery, and 7198 v. were bound by contract at a cost of \$1941.55.

"For the collection of books for the young a list was compiled of 944 titles, which it was hoped to purchase in full for each branch as well as for the central library, the purpose being to number these collections uniformly, and print one list that would answer throughout. The design was further to have each of these collections placed on open shelves, where they might be handled by the children without formality. The list, therefore, while mainly of books written for young readers, included a considerable number of books not specifically so written. These were interspersed by way of suggestion, in the hope of attracting towards a wider and perhaps higher range of interest. This undertaking, if fully carried out, would involve the purchase of some 13,000 volumes. Of these, about 6500 volumes have thus far been bought."

On Jan. 1, 1896, it was decided that the life of a borrower's card should be two years instead of one, and to secure unity all cards are

to be issued as from the central library, with one series of numbers. This will do away with the confusion resulting from separate registration records at the various branches. Mr. Putnam gives special attention to the large reference use of books. "Without the intervention of an attendant the reader may inspect, take down, and read (as he would in his own home) some 6000 volumes in Bates hall, some 5800 volumes in the patent library, and some 3000 volumes in the children's room. With only such formality as is involved in registering his name and address he may directly inspect and (without a card or call-slip) have taken down and read some 91,540 volumes on the special libraries floor. He finds some 700 periodicals on the tables, where he may handle them without inquiry or formality, and 700 more which may be had without a call-slip. In addition he finds the newspaper reading-room, with 263 daily, semi-weekly, and weekly newspapers (182 American, 81 foreign), where he is equally exempt from inquiry or formality. The actual use of the new privileges has outrun all expectation." There have been 371,048 v. issued from the stacks for reference use, but "the use of the 100,333 v. for which no slips are necessary cannot even be guessed. There are often no less than 600 readers at a time."

Since June, 1895, 634 teachers' cards, on which six books at a time may be withdrawn, have been issued. The report of the examining committee is especially interesting in its suggestions as to delivery stations, work with the children, library co-operation, and means of popularizing the library. (See p. 277.)

*Bozeman (Mont.) P. L.* (5th rpt. — year ending Apr. 30, '96.) Added 668; total 3651; circulation 13,095; lost 3, two of which were paid for. Expenses \$1249.98; librarian's salary \$220.

*Bridgeport (Ct.) P. L.* had an exhibition of foreign posters in its art department from May 16 to June 6.

*Brooklyn L.* (38th rpt. — year ending Feb. 29, '96.) Added 4588; total 124,299; circulation 92,116; Sunday attendance for 44 afternoons 2219; deliveries at five branch stations 5401. Receipts from 2688 annual memberships \$9836.93; total receipts \$21,144.39; expenses \$21,661.94.

The "Lynde fund" has been established by the bequest of \$10,000 from the late Charles Rollin Lynde. Mr. W. A. White gave \$2000 for the purchase of books.

A notable feature in this library is its collection of classed newspaper clippings, which now numbers 91 v. covering 30 subjects.

The report contains a three-page extract from a paper on the library read before the Woman's Club of Brooklyn, March 9, by Miss L. F. Tweedy, assistant in the library.

*Buffalo (N. Y.) L.* (60th rpt. — year ending Jan. 31, '95.) The 59th report, noted in the May JOURNAL, was not the report for 1895, as there incorrectly stated, but that of 1894, which

had previously appeared in the *L. J.* for June, 1895 (*L. J.* 20:322). The 1895 report, submitted at the annual meeting on Feb. 27, 1896, gives the following statistics: Added 4378; total 80,084. Issued, home use 140,651 (fict. 60.31%); lib. use 44,558; membership 2844. Receipts \$19,988.75; expenses \$19,504.61.

Mr. Larned says that the recorded use of the library shows notable increase, while if account of all reference use was kept it would, he thinks, "probably be found equal in volumes to the circulation of books drawn." He gives an analysis of the fiction circulation, based on the time spent in reading, rather than on the number of books drawn. Of the 2279 active members 449 were found to draw nothing but fiction, 220 drew no fiction, and 1580 used mixed reading, fiction predominating. "The 449 persons or families who draw nothing but fiction took, in all, 9824 volumes within the six months. The 220 who drew no fiction took 1738 volumes. In the first instance, the reading done was not quite 22 volumes each, or a little less than one volume per week for each reader; in the other instance, it was about eight volumes to each reader for the six months, thus allowing a trifle more than three weeks to the reading of each volume.

"I am disposed to think that these figures are suggestive of a time-measure by which the reading of books from public libraries may be valued more justly than by the count of novels as against other volumes. That is to say, if we divide our novel circulation by three, we shall bring it scarcely below its true representation of real reading done, in mere time, and of the actual number of the readers as compared with more solid books."

*Carlisle, Mass.* *Gleason L.* The new Gleason Library building, given to the town of Carlisle by Mrs. Johanna Parker Gleason, was dedicated May 13. The exercises were held in the Unitarian church, which was filled to overflowing, many being present from all the neighboring towns. Samuel S. Green, of Worcester, delivered the dedicatory address.

The building, which cost \$12,000, occupies a central site in the square in the village, on a lot having a frontage of 190 feet and a depth of 210 feet, and setting back 75 feet from the street. It is of pressed brick and terra-cotta trimmings, 57 by 35 feet, and the architecture is of the modern Romanesque style. The lot slopes back, so that at the rear the basement rooms show a full story above the ground. The interior is all finished in panel of natural woods. The entrance is through a large arch and vestibule, with floor of mosaic tile to the hall.

The waiting and delivery room is 14 by 22 feet, in the rear of which is the book-room, 18 by 22 feet. Connecting these rooms is an arch with counter. Leading from the delivery-room is the reading-room, made attractive by an open fireplace and mantel of moulded brick and terra-cotta. There are also rooms for the library committee and trustees. The basement contains heating apparatus, toilet and storage rooms; also by special arrangement, a room

for the use of the selectmen, with a fire-proof vault.

On the second floor is a hall, 32 x 23 feet, for lectures and historical purposes. On this floor are closets for collections of antiquities, etc. The building is well lighted by large plate-glass windows, and furnished with tables and chairs of covered oak. Many valuable pictures adorn the walls.

*Mrs. Gleason* is a native of the town, and a daughter of the late Major Jonas Parker. She now resides in Sudbury. She has made other gifts to the town, and a short time ago she gave \$1000 for a town clock.

*Charlotte (Mich.) P. L.* The first report of the directors, submitted to the city council, summarizes the history of the library since its organization and the appointment of directors by city ordinance in November, 1894. The first meeting of directors was held January 8, 1895, when officers were elected; "but as there was no existing library to control and not a dollar of money ever having been raised for library purposes, nothing remained for the board to do." On May 6, 1895, the council directed that a tax of one-half mill be levied for a library fund. This netted \$1000.87, of which \$1085.38 have been expended for books, furniture, and salaries of librarian and janitor. There have been 910 books purchased, which with the 589 v. of the school library, transferred by the school board, gives a total of about 1500 v. The library was opened for issue of books on January 18, 1896. Since then to the date of the report (April 6) 5221 v. have been issued, and there are now 716 readers' cards in use. "The want of more books is already deeply felt." Miss Sarah Williams, of the Armour Institute library class, is librarian.

*Chester (Pa.) P. L.* (2d rpt.) Added 110; total not given. Issued, home use 8766; lib. use 2366. Total membership 280.

"The new rule which went into effect on December 1, 1895, making membership \$1.20 per annum, and dropping the \$1 when joining, has increased the membership in a marked degree. In the past three months we have had twice as many members as in the previous nine months, which proves that the \$1 fee in joining had prevented many in the past from becoming members of the library. The usefulness of the library has also been increased by allowing members to take two books at one time for home use, only one of which shall be a work of fiction."

*Chicago, Ill. McCormick Theological Seminary.* The Virginia Library of the seminary was formally presented to the trustees on the evening of May 6. The presentation was made in the reading-room of the library. Mr. Cyrus H. McCormick acted for his mother, Mrs. Nettie Fowler McCormick, who is at present in Florence, Italy. The Virginia Library stands at No. 322 Belden avenue, on the seminary grounds. It is of pure Greek architecture, modelled from the Erechtheum of Athens. Its reading-room is amply spacious for its purpose, with a ca-

pacity for 60,000 v. The building is of blue Bedford limestone. It was erected at a cost of \$100,000.

*Circleville (O.) P. L.* (Rpt.) Added 622; total 7375. Issued 24,123, an increase of 4894 over the previous year. Visitors to reading-room 9724. Borrowers' cards in use 1232. Receipts \$1873.86; expenses \$1303.20.

"For the past two years, through the co-operation of the library board and the librarian, special attention has been paid to the children, and they have been led, gradually, to a higher taste in reading. The improvement in this direction has been most remarkable, and it is very gratifying to those engaged in the work. As we have not free access to the shelves, in order to facilitate this plan for the children's improvement teachers have been given permission to select books from the shelves for use in their school work; each teacher is allowed to take to books at one time, which may be kept out for four weeks. In order to supply the children, both in this way and also directly from their own cards, with a better class of literature, a special case of well-selected books has been arranged for easy reference by teachers. These books have proved instructive, and, at the same time, are liked by the children, two qualities which do not always go hand in hand."

*Cleveland (O.) P. L.* The library board has decided to comply with the half-holiday law and give its employés the benefit which is allowed to all other public servants as well as to large numbers of others in private employ. It is to be tried for a month, to see how the public will stand it. The public in this instance consists largely of school-children, who have a whole holiday on Saturday, and can probably contrive somehow to accommodate themselves to the new arrangement.

*Concord (Mass.) F. L.* (23d rpt. — year ending March, '96.) Added 1059; total 27,848. Issued, home use 26,074; no record of lib. use is kept.

The two-book system was in use during 11 months of the year covered by the report. "In some respects this method makes a little more work, but it has increased the circulation and is, on the whole, much more satisfactory, and more than compensating for the increased work. I think few of the borrowers would like to go back to the one-book limit."

*Denver (Colo.) P. L.* An interesting poster exhibition was opened at the library on the evening of May 16, when a private view was held, the public display continuing from May 17-21. The basis of the collection was the Century Co.'s collection of Napoleonic poster designs, to which was added the library's collection, gathered during the past two years. In addition to posters, the exhibition included illustrations by Kemble, Reinhart, Frost, and other American illustrators, prepared by the teachers and students of the eighth grades of the district under the direction of the supervisor of drawing, having been cut from the

periodicals collected and turned over to them by the public library. These are intended and are being used by teachers for illustration in various lines of school work, for designs in drawing, wood-carving, china painting, etc., and to lead the children to see the art that is at their doors. The exhibition was largely attended and attracted much interest. The announcements of it, issued by the library, were decidedly original, being printed in ornamental style on Japanese paper, with the seal of the library affixed, and adorned with small reproductions of the three leading Napoleon posters.

*Derby (Ct.) P. L.* The board of aldermen have adopted a resolution establishing a public library and reading-room, to be known as the Derby Public Library, which shall be maintained by the city. The sum of \$500, appropriated by the city meeting, held January 31, 1896, for the purpose of establishing a library, is to be placed to the credit of the "library fund," with all other monies received for library purposes. The mayor is requested to appoint a board of nine directors for the library, the board of aldermen also appointing a board of nine directors, as prescribed by law.

*Durham, N. C.* The town has taken up the idea of establishing a public library, and at a recent public meeting the sum of \$5568 was secured.

*Germantown, Phila. Friends' F. L.* (Rpt.) Added 737; total 18,793. Issued, 13,401; visits to lib. 21,136; no. borrowers "about 1500."

A list of books added in 1895 is appended to the report.

*Glenolden, Pa.* A site has been chosen and plans selected for a public library building, which it is hoped may be erected this year, as about \$1000 have already been raised as a building fund through the efforts of a number of ladies of the town. The plans call for a two-story building of stone and light brick, with terra-cotta trimmings, providing for the library on the first floor and for a lecture-hall or auditorium on the second. About 300 v. have been collected as the nucleus of the library.

*Hillsboro' (Ill.) P. L.* The city council has decided to pay the expense of maintaining a public library and reading-room, and has appointed a board of directors.

*Hoboken (N. J.) F. P. L.* (Rpt. — year ending May 1, '96.) Added 1523, total 14,999; circulation 104,823 (German 13,206, English 91,618). Receipts were \$8442.73, with a cash balance of \$1525.11 at the time of the last report, or a total of \$9967.84. The expenditures were \$9293.35, leaving a cash balance of \$674.49. The receipts for the library building fund, which include donations from individuals and moneys received from the city, amounted to \$13,336.60, while the amount expended was \$6336.60.

*Grand Rapids (Mich.) P. L.* The library committee has issued a special catalog of industrial books, which is sent to the factories

and workshops of the city and hung in public places. With each catalog is an advertising notice in bold type, which is prominently posted, calling attention to the books and urging mechanics to take advantage of the chance to pursue some course of practical study. In this way it is thought that knowledge of the scientific books will be brought directly to those to whom they will be of the greatest use.

*Kingston (Mass.) P. L.* At a special town meeting held May 15 a committee was appointed to have charge of the construction of a new public library building. The sum of \$20,000 left to the town in 1879 contingent upon the death of an heir is now available, and the building will be erected upon a lot offered by Horatio Adams and Mrs. Geo. Adams.

*Lancaster (Mass.) Town L.* (33d rpt. — year ending March, '96.) Added 927; total 26,247. Issued, home use 14,459 (fict. and juv. 60.14%), of which 1438 were for school use; new registration 181; total registration 1647. Receipts and expenses \$1744.62.

A list of the most popular books of the year is given, "Trilby" leading. Appended is a catalog of accessions since March 1, 1895.

*Laurel, Md.* The citizens of Laurel are about to establish a town library. The various school libraries are to be consolidated, and to this collection there has been added a donation of about 400 volumes from the Enoch Pratt Free Library, composed of books condemned on account of hard usage.

*Littleton, Mass. Reuben Hoar L.* (9th rpt., 1895-'96.) Added 332; total 6000+. Issued 5846 (fict. 3738); extra books issued on the two-book system 217.

The report includes an account of the dedication of the new library building, the Houghton Memorial, given by Clement S. Houghton and Miss Elizabeth G. Houghton, in memory of their father. The building was given to the town on December 4, 1895, with appropriate dedicatory exercises held in the town hall. Addresses were made by Rev. W. J. Cloues, Clement S. Houghton, G. W. Sanderson, H. J. Harwood, Rev. Edward L. Clark, Hon. H. S. Nourse, and others. An audience of some 700 persons was present, and the new library building was thrown open for public inspection. Lunch was served to about 200 invited guests.

The new building, which stands on a triangular lot on the main street near the town hall, is of yellow brick, with white terra-cotta trimmings, and has a frontage of 50 feet with a length of 57. The main entrance, reached by a flight of five granite steps, is composed of three semi-circular arches supported on columns of terra-cotta, carved and decorated. The centre arch forms the entrance, while under the smaller side arches are bronze tablets containing the names of the Littleton soldiers who served in the civil war. The entrance leads to a vestibule 5 x 14 with an inner door which opens into the main hall. This hall is 23 feet long by 12 feet wide and is 18 feet high. From this opens the librarian's room, opposite

the entrance, and the reading-room on the right. It also contains the main delivery-desk and the stairs leading to the basement, and is lit by two large windows on the side and one in front.

The stack-room, 23 feet wide, 28 long, and 20 high, opens out of the librarian's room. It contains a double-storied iron stack, similar in pattern to the one in the new congressional library in Washington, with rolled steel shelves and a glass floor and a book capacity of about 25,000 v.

The reading-room is 18 by 24 feet and 18 high. At one end is a large ornamental fireplace, over which hangs the portrait of William S. Houghton, the father of the donors. Opposite this is a portrait of Reuben Hoar, in memory of whom the library is named. Under this is a bronze tablet, with an inscription in memory of Mr. Houghton. In the basement are the heating and lighting apparatus, lavatory, etc. The interior is finished with white painted woodwork. The walls in the hall and librarian's room are painted yellow, while the reading-room is a dark olive green above a high white panelled dado.

The whole style of the building is Colonial, all the details, both exterior and interior, being in accordance with this, and its cost complete was about \$25,000.

The Reuben Hoar Library was given to Littleton about 10 years ago by William Stevens Houghton, in whose memory the present building was erected. It was a memorial to Reuben Hoar, of Littleton, who had extricated Mr. Houghton's father from pressing financial difficulties by timely generosity. So deep an impression did his kindly friendship at that time make on young Houghton that he resolved, should he ever be able to do so, to perpetuate Reuben Hoar's name by a worthy memorial. The gift of \$10,000 for the foundation of the Reuben Hoar Library was the first result of this resolve, and Mr. Houghton had intended before his death to add to this a suitable library building. His plan is carried out by his children in the gift of the Houghton memorial building, in which the Reuben Hoar Library is now housed.

*Louisville, Ky. Polytechnic Soc. of Kentucky L.* (17th rpt.) Added 606; total 49,290. Issued, home use 58,637; to free readers 21,281; total 79,918 (fict. 53,862). Spent for books \$1723.05.

The work of cataloging the library has been completed. The library is open daily, except on Sundays or holidays, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; members of the society may draw books for home use, other persons are charged a small fee for such use, but the library-rooms are absolutely free to all for reading or study.

*Minneapolis (Minn.) P. L.* The library board at its May meeting rescinded part of its action in March reducing salaries, and restored the salaries of several of the assistants, and also voted to double the amount formerly applied to circulating magazines. Further action may be taken at the June meeting.

*New Brunswick (N. J.) F. P. L.* (6th rpt. — year ending March 31, '96.) Added 661; total, including books of F. C. L. 13,347; circulation 49,579; readers 2665. Two books lost. Receipts \$4474.24; expenditures \$4270.27. "Books are issued for home use to all persons of 10 years of age and upward on their agreement, with guarantee, to return them in good condition or pay for them if lost."

*New York. Aguilar F. L.* (7th rpt. — year ending Nov. 1, '95.) Added 1045; total 29,207; readers 35,929; circulation 256,963; reading-room attendance 105,430. Receipts \$16,059.90; expenses \$15,103.41. The ratio of circulation to the number of books is the largest in the state. At the East Broadway branch only 55% of the reading has been fiction. An alcove containing about 1000 v. of biographical works has been dedicated at the East Broadway branch to the memory of Mrs. Nina Goldsmith-Spiegelberg. These alcoves are established by the donation of not less than \$1000, of which sum \$500 is used for the purchase of books and \$500 is invested and the income used for the maintenance of the alcove.

*New York. LIBRARIES ON MEDICINE.* New York is only indifferently provided with them. (*N. Y. Tribune*, May 24.)  $\frac{3}{4}$  col.

*New York Public Library — Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.* The desirability of the reservoir site for the new library building was the subject of two hearings before the aldermanic committee on county affairs on June 8 and 10. The demolition of the reservoir and the use of the site for library purposes were opposed by members of the board of fire underwriters, though engineers Birdsall and Fiteley, of the aqueduct, testified that the reservoir was of little use and would, when new mains were laid, be wholly unnecessary. Brander Matthews spoke of the need of housing the library in a new building.

The Rochester (N. Y.) *Post Express* in its issues of May 2, 9, and 16 devotes several columns to description of the Astor and Lenox libraries, their history and their chief treasures.

The Astor Library is now open daily until 6 p.m., and workmen have been engaged in putting in electric light. The Astor Library has never been supplied with any light but daylight, and this new improvement has at last been entered upon because many of the alcoves, now overcrowded with accumulations, are so dark on cloudy days as to make the work of the librarians difficult and nearly impossible. When electricity has made the library available after day hours, the management is expecting that the public will make a loud demand for evening openings up to 9 or 10 p.m.

*New York. MUSIC LIBRARIES.* Valuable departments in the Lenox and Astor collections. The rare books of the late J. W. Drexel. Interesting autographs. Some fine scores in the Astor Library. (*New York Tribune*, May 17.)  $\frac{1}{2}$  col.

*New York Y. M. C. A.* (43d rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 1182; total 44,530; consulted 52,414; readers 33,419; Sunday attendance 6833; number using periodicals in library 50,243; number using periodicals in reading-room 109,577; 584 serials on file. 16 library talks and book exhibitions were given during the year. "The medical department is pronounced by students as the most complete in the city, having more later volumes relating to medical subjects than many so-called larger medical libraries."

*Pennsylvania State L., Harrisburg.* The report of the state librarian for the year ending Nov. 30, 1894, was published in 1895, and distributed in May, 1896. There were added during the year 3704 v., making the total number of v. (estimated) 117,122. The librarian pleads with the members of the legislature for a "liberal appropriation to this, the most valuable reference library in the state of Pennsylvania." The state should foster it, "and it could easily be made the greatest state library in the country."

Additional force is recommended for the library, and on this point the report says: "Including the state librarian and the night watchman, the regular officials of the state library number only five all told; while in the New York State Library, containing only 50,000 v. more than the state library of Pennsylvania, with little more work to do, the number holding positions is 34, besides several pages and supernumerary clerks; and I may here state that the salary alone of the director of that library comes within \$1000 of all the salaries paid for service in the state library of Pennsylvania. This library should have at least one additional assistant librarian, a permanent cataloger, and a stenographer and typewriter, which latter is certainly essential in a library of this character."

The report contains a list of the books added, a list of the newspapers and magazines on file, and a description of the new state library building, with an historical account of the library. There are also about a score of illustrations of the new building.

*Philadelphia F. L.* The city councils of Philadelphia have negotiated an \$8,000,000 loan for the city, of which the trustees of the free library have secured \$1,000,000 to establish a central library building. The trustees desire to erect a library building which shall have from 20,000 to 30,000 square feet of ground-floor space, and shall be located as near Broad and Chestnut streets as possible.

*Pittsburg, Pa. Carnegie L.* (1st rpt. — year ending Ap. 1, '96.)

Although the library was not opened to the public until Nov. 5, 1895, its work really began on April 1, 1895, when the details of securing assistants, ordering and buying books, etc., were undertaken. The first instalment of books arrived May 1, and classifying and cataloging were at once begun. "In six months (from May 1 to Nov. 1) 16,000 v. had arrived

at the library, and 9000 of these were represented in the printed catalog, which was ready for distribution Nov. 5." The statistics of the report show that the library contains 21,374 v., 7579 of which are in the circulating dept., 11,342 in the reference dept., and 2453 in the catalog-room. These figures include 400 v. in the librarian's and catalogers' rooms, 1000 v. of the music and children's collections, and over 3500 government publications; "the practical working collection in the reference department numbers little more than 6000 v." There are 6293 registered borrowers, and 38,409 persons have visited the various reading-rooms during the year. The attendance at the children's room, opened Feb. 1, is estimated at 4350. There have been 41,992 v. issued for home use (fict., adult and juv., 64.05%) and 5029 for ref. use, the latter figures not including the large use of accessible books. The books in the circulating department (about 6000 v.) are entirely inadequate to the demand, and it will be necessary to materially increase the stock. The statistics of circulation show that the monthly issue of books in this department "was on the average 50% greater than the number of volumes which the library had in this department."

The library force now numbers 18 persons. On Sept. 21, 1895, applicants for positions which did not require special training were subjected to a written examination, and the four who passed highest received appointments. "Six others were admitted to a library training class, which was started Jan. 1, with the idea of providing trained assistants for our own and any other libraries in this region which may need them."

We are requested to deny a statement recently made that the payment to the library of the city appropriation has been stopped. Mr. Anderson says: "There is not a shadow of truth in this statement. The entire annual appropriation was turned over to the treasurer of our board of trustees two or three months ago, and we do not anticipate any trouble about future appropriations."

*Providence (R. I.) P. L.* (18th rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 4251; total 75,559; vols. used in library 33,337; circulation 115,743; per cent. of fiction 61.90; registration 4557.

A comparison of the circulation of fiction in this library with that of 38 other libraries shows that 35 on the list circulate a larger per cent. of fiction. The department of history is one of the strongest in the library, and leads in the accessions for the year. Considerable additions have been made in the department of music, and a 15-page catalog of the music library was issued. The circulation record does not include the enormous number of books used at the information desk, nor the general use of the thousands of reference-books upon the open shelves. A handsome seal of novel design has been adopted.

"More attention than ever has been paid,

during the past year, to co-operating, whenever possible, with the various guilds and parish houses, the Union for Christian Work, with its admirable work among street-boys, and the numerous 'boys' clubs' and 'girls' clubs' throughout the city." The Olneyville Free Library has been aided in every way, by the loan of books and by the preparation of lists, in carrying out "the philanthropic side of library work."

*Revere (Mass.) P. L.* At a town-meeting held May 4, it was voted to purchase a site for a public library at a cost of \$3001.95.

*Rochester, N. Y. Reynolds L.* The *Illustrated Buffalo Express* for June 7 contains a four-column article by G. F. Bowerman, reference librarian, describing the Reynolds Library; it is illustrated with several views of the interior and exterior and with portraits of the founder and the librarians.

*St. Joseph (Mo.) P. L.* The majority vote of 1637 polled at the April elections in favor of increasing the library's appropriation from  $\frac{1}{8}$  mills to one mill, which was noted in the May JOURNAL, has not had the desired result. Mr. Elmendorf says: "On a technicality and upon the advice of the city counsellor the city authorities declined to appropriate the increased amount. The board of directors have about decided that it will be better to wait another year and resubmit than to have the delay of a lawsuit. No formal action has yet been taken."

*Somerville (Mass.) P. L.* John S. Hayes, librarian, has issued a "Souvenir: Our public library, 1896," a handsome eight-page brochure, with a portrait of the president of the board of trustees, and an exterior and five interior views of the beautiful library building.

*THE STRATFORD (Ct.) LIBRARY.* (In *Scientific American*, Building edition, June, 1896, p. 94-95.) il.

The ground plan and a series of illustrations showing various details of the library are given, as well as a brief history of the library. This new building was opened to the public Jan. 16, 1896, and cost \$25,000.

*Tarrytown (N. Y.) P. L.* Added 330; total 2894; circulation 7400.

"As a registered public library we borrow semi-annually from 100 to 125 books from the state travelling libraries, giving the Public Library the use of from 200 to 250 new books annually."

*Waltham (Mass.) P. L.* (Rpt.—year ending Jan. 31, '96.) Added 1023; total 23,554; circulation 62,721; library open 292 days.

*Washington (D. C.) F. P. L.* The bill providing for a municipal appropriation for the support of the library, which has been struggling through Congress for several months past, was reported by the conference committee and passed by House and Senate on May 28.

It was signed by the President on the following day. The bill provides that "a free public library and reading-room" shall be established and maintained in the District of Columbia as the property of the District and a supplement to its public educational system. It shall be free to all permanent or temporary residents of the District, and shall be directed by a board of nine library trustees, appointed by the commissioners of the District, three to serve for two years, three for four years, and three for six years. The librarian, to be appointed by the trustees, shall appoint all assistants. The library "shall be located in some convenient place in the city of Washington to be designated by the commissioners of the District, upon the recommendation of the trustees, provided, that in any municipal building to be hereafter erected in said District suitable provision shall be made for said library and reading-room sufficient to accommodate not less than 100,000 volumes."

This bill is the result of several years' hard work on the part of the Washington Library Association and others interested, in which the local press, especially the *Star*, did good service. The library was opened in January of this year (see *L. J.*, March, '96), a subscription fund for its maintenance having been secured by the energetic work of Gen. A. W. Greely, who has been foremost in its organization. It now has nearly 7000 v. and about 3500 registered readers, with a circulation of some 200 to 400 v. daily. As the bill makes the library a part of the municipal educational system, it will presumably be supported in the future on the same basis as the public schools; this will be settled at the next session of Congress. The library committee have issued subscription blanks for money to be devoted to books and equipment, the subscription being made conditional upon legislative provision by the 54th Congress for the maintenance of the library on the same basis as the schools. Several thousand dollars have been promised on this conditional arrangement.

*Watertown (O.) P. L.* (31st rpt.) Added 333; total 7436; circulation 11,008; periodicals 2966.

*Wilkesbarre, Pa., Osterhout F. L.* (7th rpt.) Added 2137; total 23,114; circulation 71,569; loaned to schools 9178 on 385 school cards; loaned on 60 music cards 502 scores. Catalogs of music and French and German fiction have been issued. "Some 300 colored plates, chiefly from the back volumes of the *Art Amateur*, have been mounted on heavy cardboard for the use of china-painters, art students, and the schools. Those which were deemed suitable for hanging on the walls of the school-rooms were eyeleted for that purpose."

*Wilmington (Del.) F. Institute L.* The Rockford Library, which has been maintained for the past 30 years by the Rockford Library and Reading-Room Association, will be known and operated as the Rockford Branch of the Wilmington Institute Free Library.

*Worcester (Mass.) F. P. L.* (36th rpt. — year ending Nov. 30, '95.) Added 5618; total 103,428; issued, home use 178,129; ref. use 82,927; circulating dept. open 305 days; reference dept. 365 days; total registration 20,148; Sunday visitors 8973. Receipts \$29,315.10; expenditures \$20,312.80.

"There have been three exhibitions of pictorial matter in the lecture-hall and one large exhibition in the art galleries during the year. 32,360 v. have been given out on the two kinds of cards held by teachers . . . exclusive of the great use made of the library for purposes of reference by teachers and pupils."

#### FOREIGN.

*Birmingham (Eng.) F. L.* (34th rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added, ref. l. 5700; total 120,600; use 394,952 v. Added to nine circulating ls. 3561; total 79,897; circulation 818,312. Reference l. open 359 days; circulating ls. open 307 days. The Shakespeare Memorial L. now contains 9484 v., and a collection of framed portraits, busts, etc., of Shakespeare. The Sunday use of the reference l. was 31,544 v. The issue of books would have been "larger but for the marked improvement in trade, which diminished the issues during the latter and busier months of the year."

*Freiburg, Germany. University of Freiburg.* The German government has appropriated 460,000 marks for the construction of a library building for the University of Freiburg.

*Liverpool (Eng.) P. L., Museums, and Art Galleries.* (43d rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Additions to lending libraries 1215; total 71,103; home circulation 579,243; vols. in reference libraries, 108,279; reference use 638,935 v., in addition to magazines and reviews 667,839; home readers 14,652.

The issue of books in the Picton Reading-Room, which is strictly the reference library, issuing no works of fiction, shows a decline of 14,426 v. during the year, while the higher-class reviews, scientific and literary periodicals show an increase of 15,854; total book issues 213,605 v.

"While most of the other classes show a decrease, Travels exhibit an increase of 919 v., the result in a great measure of the interest excited by political affairs in the Transvaal, Ashanti, and Venezuela. An increase has to be recorded in the issues under the head of Commerce and political economy by 1006 v. Since 1890 the issues in this class have nearly doubled." 48 free lectures were attended by 53,453 persons. The collection of books for the blind now numbers 570 v.

*London.* According to the London *Telegraph* it is proposed by the London School of Economics and Political Science to establish in that city a library of political science, "there being at the present time no place where the serious student of administrative or constitutional problems can find the material for his work." The *Telegraph* points out that neither the Brit-

ish Museum nor the libraries of the Colonial Institute and Statistical Society make a specialty of economics, or arrange systematically the vast number of pamphlets and reports dealing with the subject. "The result is that in any serious study of political science, and especially in the scientific investigation of public administration, England stands at present far behind the United States, France, Germany, and Italy. In all these countries the student who wishes to devote himself to such problems finds one or more centres of research, equipped with a considerable collection of the indispensable material. It is no exaggeration to say that some of the problems of political science most pressing in their importance to English administrators can be far better studied at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (with its unrivaled Bluntschli collection of Swiss and other documents), or at Columbia College, New York, than anywhere in this country."

*London, Guildhall L.* The corporation of London has secured for the Guildhall Library the splendid philological and linguistic collection of the late Prince Lucien Bonaparte.

*Madrid, Bibl. Nacionale.* On March 16 the new library building, of which the corner-stone was laid some 30 years since by Queen Isabella II., was opened to the public. The structure is 200 x 80 feet, the central building, of stone and iron, being seven stories in height. It contains 35 rooms. The public reading-room has 320 desks, while a smaller room, containing 12 desks, has been reserved for the consultation of rare books.

#### PRACTICAL NOTES.

**THE BROWNE CHARGING SYSTEM.**—Having been the first to adopt the charging system (described in the *L. J.*, May, 1895) devised by Miss Nina E. Browne, of the Library Bureau, the result of a year's experience may be of help to others who feel, as I did, much dissatisfaction with many of the old methods.

By this, all necessary statistics are obtained; how many times and by whom each book has been used, etc. Of the advantages to be gained, the greatest is time; only one stamping is required—that denoting when the book is *due*. This date, which cannot be gainsaid, serves as a reminder to the patrons, and the result is a prompter return of books. It also does away with the necessity of postals for overdue books. Another advantage, much appreciated by our patrons, is the relief from all care and responsibility—no card to care for; the only thing required of them being to look out for the date when the books are due, as the pockets, which take the place of the personal card, are on file at the library when not in use.

We use cards of 10 different colors to represent the classes, which makes fewer cards to look over; the color shows, at a glance, where to look for the book-card belonging to the date found in the back of the book returned.

MARY E. SARGENT.

#### LIBRARIANS.

**BILLINGS, Dr. John Shaw.** By order of the Emperor Francis Joseph the University of Pesth has been authorized to confer upon Dr. Billings the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine.

**CHAMPLIN, George G.**, has accepted the position of indexer and cataloger in the New York State Board of Health, Department of Vital Statistics, Albany. He is a graduate of the New York State Library School, class of 1895.

**DAVIS, Miss Mary L.**, has resigned her position as librarian of the Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville, Tenn., to accept a position in the Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn, N. Y. Her resignation will take effect July 1.

**DIXON, Mrs. Zella Allen**, librarian of the University of Chicago, has returned to the library after spending some weeks in a tour through Mexico and California, visiting libraries and making an exhaustive study of their methods. She travelled over 1000 miles, visiting several hundred libraries, private as well as public, and has made a fine collection of library blanks and samples.

**FOXT, Miss, of Rome, N. Y.**, succeeds Miss Elizabeth Van Hoevenberg, resigned, as librarian of the South Orange (N. J.) Free Library.

**GADD, Col. Luther H.** The snarl over the appointment of a librarian for the Maryland state library at Annapolis ended June 1, and in peace. Col. Gadd, the librarian, resigned, and Mrs. Anna Burton Jeffers at once took charge of the office.

As stated in the April JOURNAL, Mrs. Jeffers was appointed to the office on March 30, and Col. Gadd refused to give it up to her. Mrs. Jeffers was unable to contest in the courts the resistance of Col. Gadd. Owing to the lateness of Mrs. Jeffers's former appointment the state library committee refused to approve her bond, because they claimed that such an act on their part could be performed only when the legislature was in session. The governor then tried to prevail on Col. Gadd to resign, but the latter refused. Next the governor announced his purpose to remove Col. Gadd and to appoint Mrs. Jeffers in his place. Charges were to be filed against the colonel, among them the fact that he did not attend to the duties of the office himself, which the law requires. But Col. Gadd was willing to resign, provided the governor would permit him to name his successor. This the governor refused to do. Finally the colonel resigned, as stated, because, he said, the governor had prejudiced his case and because he could not appeal in the event of his removal. Col. Gadd was state librarian since May 1, 1892. He is a politician and was clerk of the courts of one of the Eastern Shore counties before going to Annapolis. He had been a candidate for Commissioner of the Land Office, but falling in that he accepted the state librarianship.

HARNETT, Mrs. L. K., who for two years was cataloger and librarian of the Seattle (Wash.) Public Library, is now in New York, where she is desirous of finding an opening in library work. Mrs. Harnett's resignation from the Seattle Library was a political measure, the provision that all "heads of city offices" should be voters being applied to the librarianship by the municipal authorities.

JENNINGS, Miss Alice, for two years past librarian of the Mattoon (Ill.) Free Public Library, has resigned her position, the resignation to take effect in August. She will be succeeded by Miss Ida Munson.

SANDERS, Mrs. M. A., librarian of the Pawtucket Free Public Library, has been officially notified of her appointment as a member of the State Board of Charities of Rhode Island.

### Cataloging and Classification.

CARNEGIE L., Pittsburgh, Pa., *Bulletin*, vol. 1, nos. 1-4, Jan.-April, '96, contains the books added to library in two lists, one by author and title, the other classified by general subjects. The issue for May (v. 1, no. 5), besides the usual lists of additions, contains the librarian's first annual report, with appendixes of donations, etc., and a reading-list of "Books on outdoor life."

CLERKENWELL (London) P. L. Class-guide to the historical, geographical, and biographical literature in the lending department. London, 1896. 188 p. 4d.

This is the second part of the revised catalog, now in preparation. It is a classed list, divided into 114 numbered sections, and prefaced by a subject index referring to section number and in some cases to author's name. The entries are quite short, including, however, date of publication, number of v., illustrations, maps, etc. Brief descriptive annotations are given where necessary, and care has been taken to indicate the recent and older literature on special subjects; "thus readers will learn that Kinglake's 'Eothen' and Livingstone's 'Missionary travels' are not recent works, as indicated by the title-page dates 1887 and 1875 respectively, but descriptions of events and countries about 60 and 50 years ago." In the section of Biography dates of births and deaths are given, with a word as to the profession and nationality of the subject. The "Guide" is prepared for use in connection with free access to the shelves; it includes all accessions in the classes covered up to March 6, 1896.

FITCHBURG (Mass.) P. L. *Bulletin* for May contains the additions for March and April; also, as reference lists, such of the leading books for 1895 (the Albany list) as are in the library, books on the flora of New England, on birds and birds' nesting, insects, essays and studies, and nature stories for younger readers.

GRAND RAPIDS (Mich.) P. S. L. Special catalogue: industrial books, comprising works on the fine and useful arts, sciences, industries, domestic economy, etc., which will be of use to students, artists, architects, designers, engineers, mechanics, householders, and property owners. Supplement to the regular catalogue. 1896. 48 p. O.

Prefaced by the rules and regulations. A decimal classed catalog with list of periodicals and index of subjects appended. Well and clearly printed, firmly bound in boards, and perforated at the upper left hand corner so that it may be hung up for easy reference in workshops, factories, and public places.

LANE, W. C. Additions to the Dante collection in Harvard College Library. May 1, 1894-May 1, 1895. (In 14th annual report of the Dante Society. Boston, 1895.)

The MERCANTILE L. (Philadelphia, Pa.) *Bulletin* for April contains the accessions from Jan. 1 to April 1, and "Reading notes on Joan of Arc."

MILWAUKEE (Wis.) P. L. Quarterly index of additions, vol. 5, no. 39, June-Sept., 1895; no. 40, Oct.-Dec., '95, p. 153-203.

NEW BEDFORD (Mass.) F. P. L. *Monthly Bulletin* for May contains reference lists nos. 6 and 7 on "Venezuela" and "Memorial Day" respectively, and the additions to the library in April.

NEW HAVEN (Conn.) P. L. *Monthly Bulletin* for April contains a reference-list on "The Armenian question," that for May "References on Cuba and the revolution there."

NOTTINGHAM (Eng.) F. P. L. 1896 supplementary list of books in the central lending library. 25 p.

The OTIS L. (Norwich, Ct.) *Bulletin* for May has a reference-list on "Birds and flowers" and also a list of "Sea stories."

The SALEM (Mass.) P. L. *Bulletin* for May is mainly devoted to special reading-lists on "Egypt and Abyssinia," seven columns, and "Roentgen's X rays," four columns.

SOMERVILLE (Mass.) P. L. *Bulletin* for May contains reading-lists on "Memorial day" and "Botany."

SPRINGFIELD (Mass.) CITY L. *Bulletin* for May continues from the previous number the author-list of juvenile books, and also gives the seventh fiction-list of the Massachusetts Library Club. The selections of reading-matter are of unusual interest.

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. Library bulletin, May, 1896. Accessions to the department library, Jan.-March, 1896. 16 p. Q.

WALTHAM (Mass.) P. L. *Bulletin* for April continues the special list on Music, and also gives one on Geographical reading, recommended by the superintendent of schools for scholars' use.

#### FULL NAMES.

The following are supplied by Harvard College Library:

Dolley, C: Sumner, joint author (On reaction times and the velocity of the nervous impulse);

Raines, Cadwell Walton (A bibliography of Texas);

Sewell, James Witt, joint author (An English grammar);

Stiles, C: Wardell (A revision of the adult cestodes of cattle, sheep, and allied animals).

#### Bibliography.

ARMENIA. Greene, F: Davis. The rule of the Turk: a revised and enlarged edition of The Armenian crisis. N. Y., Putnam, 1896. c. 19 + 192 p. D. 75c; 40c.

Contains a short bibliography of five pages.

BANKS. Conant, C: A. History of modern banks of issue. N. Y., Putnam, 1896. c. 10 + 595 p. O. \$3.

Contains a five-page list of authorities.

FRENCH HISTORY. Thompson, Ja. Westfall. The development of the French monarchy under Louis VI, le Gros, 1108-1137. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1896.

Contains a bibliography of six pages, which is of special interest to historical students.

GREEN, Dr. S: A. Remarks on an early book catalogue printed in Boston, with other bibliographic matter. 8 advance pages from the current volume of the *Proceedings of the Mass. Hist. Society*.

"The library of the late Reverend Mr. Samuel Lee." Boston, 1693. 16 p. 8<sup>o</sup>. A facsimile of the title-page is given.

INTERNAL REVENUE TAXATION. Howe, F: C. Taxation and taxes in the United States under the internal revenue system; 1791-1895. N. Y., Crowell, 1896. c. 13 + 293 p. D. (Library of economics and politics, no. 11.) \$1.75.

The appendix contains a 5-p. bibliography.

LAKE SUPERIOR. Campbell, H. Colin. Exploration of Lake Superior: the voyages of Radisson and Groseilliers. [Milwaukee, H. E. Haferkorn,] 1896. 35 p. O. (Parkman Club publications, no. 2.) pap., 30c.

Contains a 1-p. bibliography.

LITHOGRAPHY. Grolier Club, N. Y. Catalogue of an exhibition illustrative of a cen-

tenary of artistic lithography, 1796-1896. N. Y., Grolier Club, 1896. ll. 8<sup>o</sup>.

Contains an "Attempt at a bibliography" of lithography.

LONG ISLAND. Flint, Martha Beckée. Early Long Island: a colonial study. N. Y., Putnam, 1896. c. 9-549 p. net, \$3.50.

Contains (p. 530-538) a "list of books consulted" that will be helpful to students of the early history of the island.

MACCOLL, D. S. Miss E. M. MacColl's book-bindings: a new technique in tooling. In the *Art Journal*, May, 1896, p. 147-152. ll.

The illustrations represent experiments mainly with the wheel-line along with a sparing use of stamps. Some of the effects are decidedly fine.

TAXIDERMY. Brown, Montagu. Artistic and scientific taxidermy and modelling. London, A. & C. Black, 1896, p. 421-453.

Comprises a "Bibliography of works treating wholly or in part upon taxidermy, or upon the preservation of various natural objects," except works on the preservation of insects. This bibliography is based on the second and third reports of the Society of American Taxidermists, and will prove very helpful to all interested in the subject.

#### Anonyms and Pseudonyms.

Anthony Morehead is the pseudonym used by the late E. Rowland Sill in the *Century Magazine* and the *Overland Monthly*.

J. C. ROWELL.

#### Humors and Blunders.

CURIOSITIES OF LETTERING. The following examples of original lettering on backs of books are taken from bona-fide cases:

Man Is.	Man, Isle of,
Letters	Letters
Middl-	
esex	

"Lessing On the lookout," was asked for by the person who wanted "The Laocoon."

School-girl, to attendant: "Please give me Cicero's 'Natural decorum'" (*De natura decorum*).

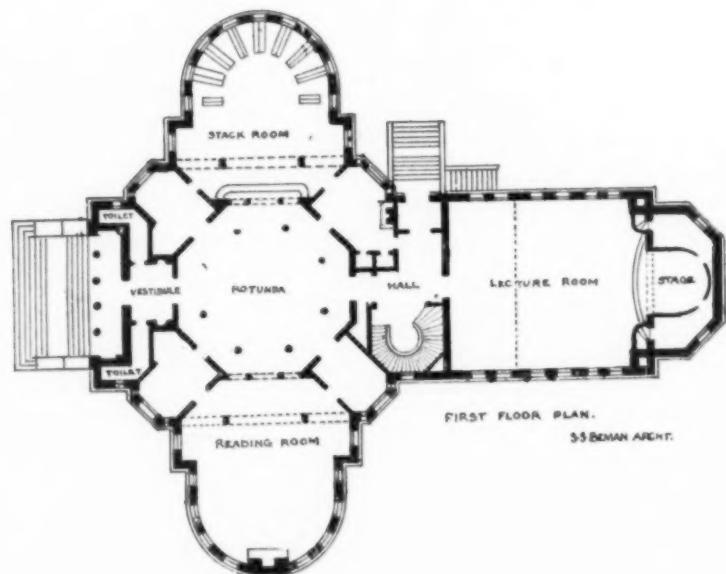
A cross-reference, in the British Museum catalog:

Ramaswamy, C. V., see Venkata Rāmasvāmi (Kāvall).

Venkata Ramaswamy Brahbin (Cavelly), see (Cavelly).

Cavelly Venkata Ramaswami, see Kāvall Venkata Rāmasvāmin, which is not to be found.





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